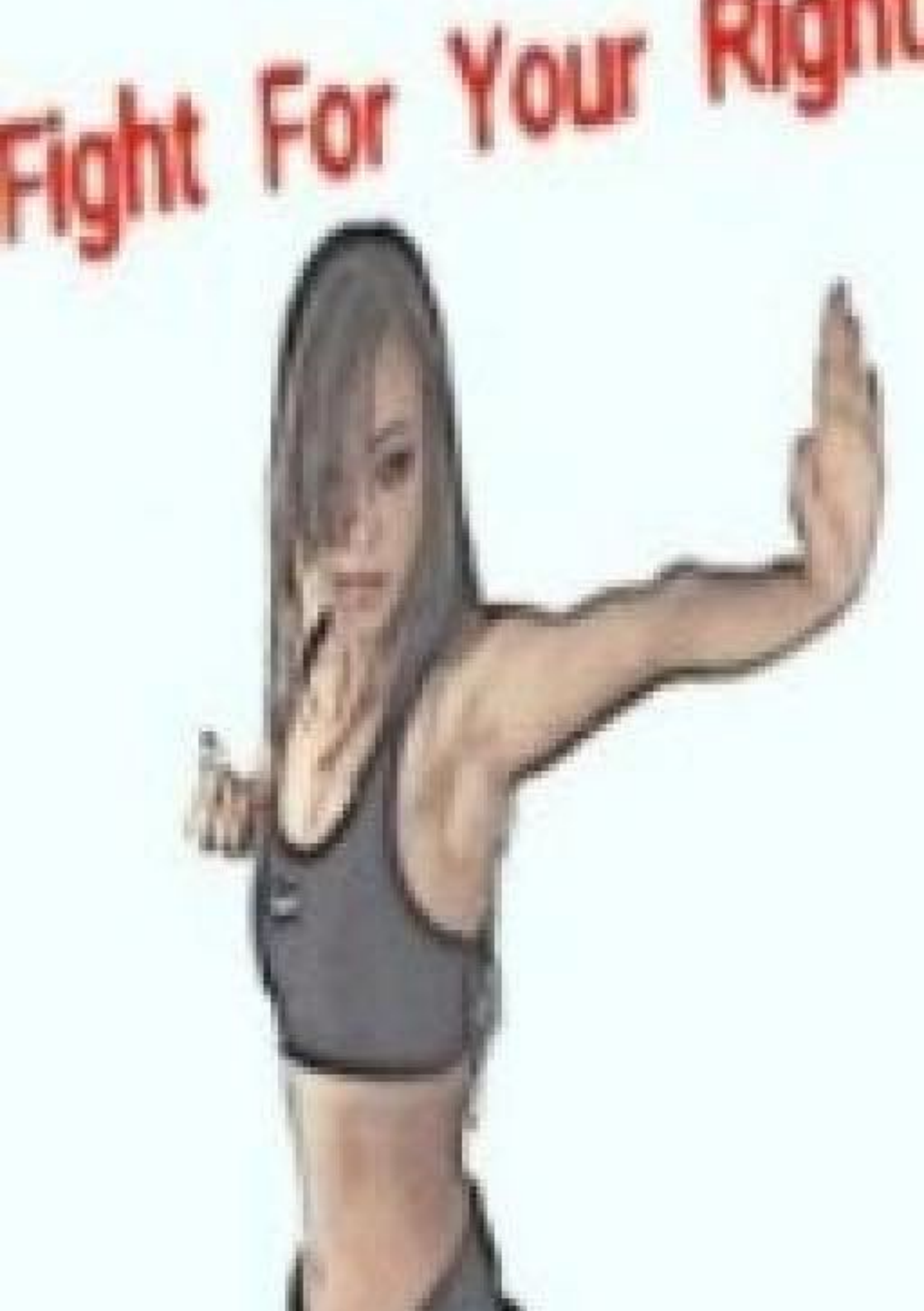
Fight For Your Righ



Copyright Notice

rainy days [a short story]

By aquaturtle66

©

Ex Libris Sapientiae

2011 by aquaturtle66. All Rights Reserved.

No reuse, redistribution, or modification without permission.

Printing: Not allowed without explicit permission.

ID: 780. View this Book Online

Table of Contents

1. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 1) 5

2. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 2) 19

3. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 3) 31

4. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 4) 43

5. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 5) 49

6. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 6) 57

7. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 7) 69

8. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 8) 79

9. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 9) 101

10. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 10) 109

11. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 11) 121

12. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 12) 133

13. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 13) 143

14. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 14) 153

15. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 15) 167

16. Fight For Your Right (Chap. 16) 177

Chapter 1

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 1)

Chapter 1

"Begin," my father yelled at me. I tired not to show my discomfort and repeated the drill and. Jab, punch, duck, punch, jump, punch, uppercut, side kick. One. Jab, punch, duck, punch, jump, punch, uppercut, side kick. Two.

I knew that drill almost better than I knew how to spell my own name. Every time that I misbehaved, I did this drill. Every time I talked back, I did this drill. Every time that my dad had a bad day at work, I did this drill. Every time that my dad wanted to work out, I did this drill and more.

My dad, for some unfathomable reason, wanted me to be a fighter like him. I was only fourteen and I already had a black belt in Karate, Tae Kwon Do, and Jujitsu. I had been learning to fight ever since I was three, and my dad taught me everything that he knew, and for anything that he didn't, he took me to someone who did.

I hated fighting. I didn't like intentionally hurting others; I found it barbaric and unforgivable. I had begged him thousands of times to let me quit, to let me do normal sports that all the girls at school did, but it had always ended up with him making me do this drill.

I made eye contact with my father for a second. "Fifty times for side," he said, answering my silent question. I breathed a sigh of relief.

I know what you are thinking, that's a lot, but that was relatively short compared to what he usually made me do. "Father," I said, restarting the conversation that had gotten me to do the drill, "please, I don't want to fight anymore. Please, I hate it

and I don't want to so it anymore, I'll do anything else you tell me to do."

Jab, punch, duck, punch, jump, punch, uppercut, side kick. Twenty-eight. Jab, punch, duck, punch, jump, punch, uppercut, side kick. Twenty-nine.

"Lily, you will do what I tell you to do, when I tell you, no questions asked, no complaints." I wanted so badly to tell him off on how horrible of a father he was being, but I held my tongue.

"But Father-"

"No, what I say is final, and talking back just earned you an extra fifty per side. Now, go, go, go, do it with more intensity. Come on."

I'll show you intensity, I thought, imagining the large wavemaster I was hitting was my father and my hits got about three times as hard.

"Good, keep it up. No dinner and no breaks until you are done," he talk me heading up the basement steps.

I doubled my speed and finished the rest in less than five minutes. I cleaned up the exercise room and

trudged my way up two sets of stairs to my bedroom. "Derek," I gasped into my cell phone, "please tell me you are free."

"Oh, hey Lil, uh sure, I am not doing anything, just playing some guitar the usual. SO let my guess, the talk with your dad didn't go over so well?"

"Hell no."

"The Drill?"

"Uh-huh."

"I see. Need a shower before I come to pick you up?"

"It would be most desirable."

"'Kay, I'll be over in a half an hour, if you aren't done with your girly things by then and I happen to find your diary in your room, no hitting me if I can't contain my curiosity and start reading it."

"Shut up Dee."

He laughed. "Remember, five-thirty. No forgetting Lil."

"I won't, thanks Derek, you are such a lifesaver."

"You know it! See you soon."

"Bye," I said then hung up. I grabbed jeans and a tee-shirt, and went into the bathroom to strip off my workout clothes. I sighed when the cool water washed over my fatigued muscles.

I came out of the bathroom to find my best friend digging through my room. His slick black hair bobbing up and down as he dug though my draws and under my mattress.

I just leaned again my doorway waiting for him to notice me. "Got it," he whispered excitedly as her pulled a small bound book out from under my pillows.

"That's not it."

Derek jumped at the sound of my voice and he almost threw the hand sized pink book across the room, his wide gray eyes were frightened. "Lil! I thought it was your dad; don't scare the shit out of me like that."

"What were you going to do? Shift on me?" I laughed.

He scowled at me. "Yeah, you would have gotten a face full of pissed of raven"

We both laughed. While I was a normal human, Derek was a shape shifter. I was the only one outside of his family and other shifters that-well that I was aware of- knew his secret. He had told me about this when we were about five, I thought it was cool and I guess that it is just a normal thing to me now. Also, flying was how he got up to my room when my father was lurking around.

"So if this isn't your dairy," he said waving the faded pink notebook around, "then what is it?"

"Careful with that!" I launched myself across the room; I grabbed the small worn item and cradled it to my chest.

"Wow, your fast. What is so important about that anyway?"

"It was my mother's, it has her poems in it, and it is the only thing that I have of hers."

"Why does it matter so much?" Derek asked confused, "She left you with your father right after you were born, you didn't even know her."

"So even after all of that, I still love her more than I will ever love my Father. I don't even think that he likes me, let alone loves me."

"What is so important about martial arts that he is so...obsessive about it? Even my parents don't understand it."

"I wish I knew, her is so-"

"Lily Ann May. Who are you talking to?"

"No one Father," I yelled in the general direction of the stairs. "Get downstairs," I whispered to Derek, "I will meet you downstairs in a minute."

He crouched down, I blinked and suddenly there was a sleek blue-black raven where he was. Derek flew over and landed on my shoulder. "You know, you just might be cuter this way when you can't talk back."

He pecked me lightly on the ear with his beak and flew out my almost always opened window; I shut it and headed downstairs.

"Lily-"

"I am going out Father," I interrupted him firmly.

"Out? Out?! You are not allowed to date until you are sixteen," he raged, "I have told you this a thousand-"

"Father! It's with Derek."

The blood drained out of his face and he returned to his normal pale color. My father has known Derek's parents since high school, so 'going out' or sleeping over at each other's house was completely normal.

"Are you coming home tonight or going over to his house?"

"His." I hope.

"Okay, have fun. Oh, wait, Lily did you finish your combos?"

"Yeah," I said as I ran the door. "Can I sleep over at your house?"

"A 'hi' would be nice for once."

"Hi. So can I?" I asked Derek again as I slammed his car door shut.

"Sure, but I will have to check with my girlfriend to see if she can spear you some room, she is quite the jealous type you know."

"What girlfriend?"

He laughed. "You know, the invisible one, duh. You haven't seen her. You would remember her because she is so damn hot it's scary."

"What does she look like?"

"Shoulder length black hair, violet eyes, about up to my shoulders, full pink lips."

"That sounds like me," I laughed, "Except for the scary hot part. Since when did I become your girlfriend and why don't I remember it?"

"Oh no, it's not you, you never let me finish. She also has a hot bod and her dad is just crazy, a total nut job," he pretended to think about it for a second, "Or

maybe I was describing you, so sure, you can come over then."

"Since when do I have a 'hot bod' and why would you be looking at my lips?"

"You would be surprised at what you notice about other people when it is one in the morning and you can't sleep." My stomach growled loudly and he pulled the car into subway's parking lot. "Food time for the Water Lily?"

"Please," I faked fainting of exhaustion.

Derek chuckled then came over to my side and lifted me out of the car bridal style. "Dee, put me down, people are staring."

"Let them," Derek laughed as I turned beet-red.

"If you don't put me down right now then I will tell the dude in there to put and extra handful of worms on your sandwich for you."

He laughed again and set me down on my feet. "Never before have I seen a raven eat worms... bugs,

rats, small animals, human waste, yeah I have seen them eat that but never have I seen them eat worms."

"Well I have." He raised an eyebrow at me and I struggled to continue with a straight face, "In first grade the raven was dared to eat a handful of worms and ended puking on the first one." I couldn't hold back my laughter anymore. I had a few wary stars from some a few passersby from my loud paroxysm of giggles.

"Oh, but I do believe that I know what you are talking about and I think that you had to help...the raven... get home, and you never did make it up to the raven either."

"I did too! I had to your chores for the next two days and I didn't even make you eat them."

"No, that's what your dad made you do. I am pretty sure that the raven wanted you to give him a kiss to make him feel better."

I ruffled Derek's hair. "Well we can't change the past now can we?" I said walking in to get my food.

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~
~~~

"Are you sure that your invisible girlfriend is okay with this?" Lily teased me as we were getting ready from bed that night.

"I think she is, but you better sleep with one eye open Water Lily."

She frowned. "I can understand why you call my Lil, but I can never get why you call me Water Lily."

"Well it's because you don't know what it stands for. A water lily stands for 'Purity of heart' which I think of all the flowers reminds me most of you."

She laughed. "It's kind of sad that you know what flowers symbolize. Why do you know that anyway?"

"Well for one, it helps me pick up girls," I joked, "and two it's called working at my mother's flower shop for as long as you have been fighting so about eleven years."

So you have been working there since you were five?" she laughed, "That's kind of sad, no, that's hilarious, just wait until the guys at school hear about this."

"You wouldn't dare." She smirked then stared to get blankets to make a bed on the floor of my room. "Hey, Lil, you don't have to sleep down there, I have more than enough room up here," I said moving over to the edge of my bed.

She deliberated for a second, and then scrambled up to lay next to me in the dark. She fell asleep faster than she usually did. Her father worked her much too hard again. He would end killing her one day. My throat closed up painfully on the thought.

Lily was my best friend; I know that I should love her like a sister. But I was incapable of that. I was endeared to her.

To be endeared by someone, to most shape shifters, was a great honor that was didn't happen to everyone. You were bound to that person the first time that you ever laid eyes on them and you could never be unbound. The other person, unless they were a fellow shape shifter, wasn't physically- they might mentally know if you told them- aware of this bound until they were kissed- on the lips- by the one endeared to them.

I wasn't sure I could ever tell Lily what I felt, if she didn't feel the same way, it could ruin our friendship. If she did feel the same way, her father would kill me and make her do drills until her hands bled- which even happened now- or make her work until she collapsed of exhaustion. I would take the risk if the consequences only affected me, but they affected her, so I could never make myself take the chance.

I stroked her hair lightly; she sighed and then rolled into me. I fell asleep soon after that.

{Author's note: I am not sure if I should continue with this story, if you want me to, either vote or comment or both.

P.S. I will finish my other books, I just started this one day at Karate in stead of teaching classes like I was supossed to do....

-Katie}

Chapter 2

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 2)

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

Beepbeepbeepbeepbeep! I woke up to a frantic beeping. I shot upright. I was in Derek's room, on his bed; he groaned and sat up groggily. "What the hell is that?" he asked me.

Then both of our eyes grew wide as it finally registered. "Dad Alert!" we both yelled, scrambling around looking for my cell phone before my dad got too pissed at me.

Derek found it fist and answered it, ignoring my outstretched hand or even offering it to me. "Hello sir." He paused for a moment. "I can't do that sir." He
~~~

paused again and I flinched, I could hear that my father was yelling at him. "Well the reason I can't give her the phone is because she is still sleeping. Oh, I was wondering if it was alright for my parents and I to kidnap her today, they need me to do some errands and I need some help with them." The pause was shorter this time. "Great thank you sir," he beamed at me as he hung up my hone and handed it back to me.

"What was that all about?"

"Well I just saved you from the drill."

"I figured that out, and I owe you big time for it, I meant the kidnapping part? Do I look like a kid to you?"

A mischievous glint came into his eye. "You are far from being a kid and kidnapping you was the best thing I could come up with so little time. I just had to save you from such a 'barbaric punishment' that you never earned," he said quoting words I had once said.

"Thank you," I said then walked over to give him a grateful peck on the cheek. I was surprised at the shock I felt when I did this and even more so when I pulled back to see Derek tremble and his eyes were almost popping out his head. He nodded shakily. "I'll be right back, I am going to go take a shower," I told him digging through his closet looking for the clothes that I had over here because of the frequency that I slept over.

I left him, still staring wide-eyed at nothing and went into the bathroom for a warm shower.

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~

She kissed me! It may have been just on the cheek, but still, she kissed me! The thought ran on an endless loop that I had no intention of stopping. When she had kissed me, it had taken every amount of control I had not to turn my hand and kiss her. I wasn't she how much longer I could pretend that I didn't love her.

Suddenly I felt a hand ruffle my hair and I fought back a gasp. I put on a cocky smile. "Hey Lil, take you long enough?"
~~~

"Nope. You should really get dressed Dee, you are 'kidnapping' me so you better have a plan of what we are going to do today."

I smirked. "I do, give me a minute." I ran to my dresser and pulled out new clothes. "Turn around," I told her.

"You could at least go into the bathroom to change, not in the same room as me," she grumbled but listed to me anyway.

"I could, but it only takes a minute so there is no need for it." I had finished changing when I was talking to her, so I snuck up behind her and jokingly put my arm around her neck in a simulation choke hold. So fast that I didn't even really see it,-faster than I had even seen some shape shifters move- she whipped around, slipped out of my grip, and then I found my arm pinned uncomfortably behind me.

He body was pressed against mine so I couldn't move and her lips were at the back of my throat. I trembled in desire. "You were trying to scare me," she whispered, her breath tickling my ear.

"I-I-" my voice sounded too shaky and I couldn't concentrate on anything but her.

"Don't try it again," she said then released me.

I turned to face her and she was still as close as she was when she had me in the joint lock. I looked at her lips and I was unable to resist longer. I needed her to feel that I was endeared to her and I needed her to feel it now, I started to bend down...

"Kids!" My mom yelled up the stairs. My eyes flew open and I straightened up. "I am leaving, are you two going to be alright?"

"Yeah mom," I yelled annoyed that she had ruined my chance along with my nerve.

Lil walked gracefully out my door and leaned over the balcony to look at my mother. I bit back the urge to yank her back. "We'll be fine Mrs. Ellsworth. I'll keep Dee out of trouble."

My mother smiled kindly at her, Lily was just as much her child as I was. "I am sure you will dear," my mom said chuckling. She knew about

my...connection... to Lily and she was just waiting for us to get together, my mom was the matchmaker.

"So what errands do you have to do?" she asked me after my mom had left for her floral shop.

"Oh my parents need me to watch these movies and if I don't, we could very well lose all of our income and lose the house and- Ow!"

She hit me lightly on the arm, stopping my fake rant. She rolled her eyes at me. "You get the movies, I'll get the popcorn."

"Okay." I went to our bookcase that was filled with DVDs. I grabbed an action, a horror, and a chick flick for us to watch. Lily absolutely hated scary movies so the only way I could get to her to watch one with me was if we watched something romantic afterwards so she could get forget the scary one.

I came up behind her and yelled "Lil!" in her ear.

She whipped around and threw a punch at me, stopping it only a mere inch from my face. "Don't do that," she whined, dropping her fist. "I could actually hurt you one day by accident."

"It would be completely my fault and anyways, shifters heal fast..."

"It would just kill me if I ever hurt you, so please don't scare me; I act on impulse when I am scared." The microwave beeped and she grabbed our popcorn. "Come on, I want to finish the movies before curfew tonight."

We watched the action movie first. Even though Lily though Lily detested fighting, she really took it seriously. She would be talking most of the movie saying 'that would never work like that' and 'oh, that was cool', she would also try to mimic the moves, much to my amusement.

"Do we have to watch that?" she croaked as I was about to put the scary movie in, she was very pale.

"Don't worry; the freaky raven boy will protect you."

"O-okay, but no making fun of me if I scream."

"I won't," I promised her, "I never have, even though you scream as if the thing is going to jump out of the TV and eat you."

The movie was actually about vampire attacks which I found quite funny. All the vampires that I knew would never be that completely obvious and they didn't usually kill when they fed.

The infallible warrior Lily was screaming and jumping throughout the movie was we weren't even half was thorough it yet!

Suddenly one of the vampires pounced out of the darkness and started to rip off one of the cheerleader's neck. Lily screamed and hid her face in my chest. In all of the times that we had watched horror movies, she had never done this.

I didn't know what to do, so I acted on impulse. I wrapped my arms around her. "It's just a movie Lily."

She shook her head without lifting her face from my shirt. "But vampires are real. You told me so yourself."

It was very hard to concentrate with her this close, but I was still able to find an explanation that wouldn't totally freak her out. "Remember Star? The girl that you wrongly thought I was dating last year?"

She lifted her head and I could see both embarrassment and hurt in her eyes. Wait, hurt?! "Yeah, she was really creepy, she only drank that fruit punch, and she never even ate anything."

I smiled gently. "It wasn't fruit punch."

Her eyes grew wide and she gaped at me. "Oh my god," she whispered looking like she was going to be sick. She swallowed. "Why was she following you everywhere, she was just like a lost puppy?"

"Sure you want to know Lil?" I asked and then continued when she nodded, "She liked the smell of my blood."

This seemed to piss her off. "How dare she?! That-"

"Language," I yelled, teasingly outraged while covering my ears. "She didn't bite me, don't worry and can we finish watching the movie?"

"Sure." Her eyes flickered towards the screen just as the jock got attacked leaving only the couple alive. Lily screamed and buried her face in my chest again.

I hugged her and kissed her head. "I won't let anyone hurt you." I can't, you mean more to me than my own life, I wanted to add but didn't.

By the time that the movie was done, I think that if I wasn't a shape shifter, I would have quite a few broken ribs considering how hard me was clinging to me.

"Do we have to watch that?" I mimicked her earlier whining.

"Yes," she said and started the chick flick.

"Are you sure that I have to watch it with you?"

"Yes. Hmmm," she contemplated sarcastically, "I wonder why you are girlfriendless..."

Because I am only waiting for you.

"Derek, are you alright. You look like you are in pain."

"It's nothing," I lied.

"You can't lie to me Dee, anyone else, you can easily, but never to me. What's wrong? You know you can

tell me." The movie was starting but she paid it no mind.

"It's just," I sighed, "never mind."

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

I groaned; he could be so damn difficult sometimes.

"Please tell me Dee, please," I said batting my eyelashes. For a second, I thought I saw a flash of lust in his eyes, but it had passed to quickly for me truly analyze it.

"I like someone who I am not sure if they like me back and I can't tell them that because if she doesn't, it could possibly ruin our friendship and I don't want to take that chance."

He likes someone else? I thought dejected. "Go for it, anyone would be lucky to have you. Who is it?"

He seemed to be holding his breath when he said, "It's-"

Right when he was about to tell me, then actors in the movie started a loud musical number that drowned out his words.
~~~

I sighed, maybe I would never find out who was going to steal Derek from me. I leaned against him and settled into his friendly embrace and his arms wrapped around me like I was his little sister. He would never like me more than a best friend.

Chapter 3

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 3)

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

"I love you," the girl said and then leaned forward to embrace the guy in a kiss. They were getting closer and closer and Beepbeepbeepbeepbeep! I jumped and almost fell off of the couch; Derek jumped and did fall off of the couch. My phone was beeping the frantic ringtone that meant my father.

"He never lets me watch the good parts of the movies does he," I mumbled then opened up my phone. "Hello?"

"Lily," he snapped into the phone, "I need you here, you have fifteen minutes to get home or you are
~~~

grounded for the next month." And with that he hung up.

"What I wouldn't give to ring his neck," I muttered to myself.

"What does he want?" Derek asked, still on the floor.

"I have fifteen minutes to get home or I am screwed for the next month," I sighed then started to head up the stairs to get my clothes from yesterday.

"Leave it," Derek told me, "my mom will wash them and then you will have them the next time you come over. You can come over the next time that your father lets you out of his sight; I know how much he is pissing you off." We headed out of the door and got into his car for the tow block ride to my house, to my hell.

He dropped me off with a good luck. "If you see a raven outside of your basement window later," he told me, "don't let your psycho father shoot it or try hitting me out of the air, I would rather not be your dinner tonight."

"Thanks for everything," I told him, then trudged slowly towards my house where my father was waiting to do who knows what with me.

My father had never abused my by hitting my- well training doesn't count because I hit him back just as often as he hits me and you kind of need to make physical contact- but all the training and work he made me do was probably worse than abuse would have been.

The second I stepped through the front door, I found my father. He was standing beside the couch so I had no choice but to run into his if I wanted to get upstairs to the safe haven of my room. "Lily Ann May," my father greeted me using my full name.

"Father," I nodded, "is there something that you have requested of me that I needed to show up in such haste?" I hated talking like this, but my father wouldn't tolerate his daughter talking in any other way but proper speech.

"Are you serious about quitting martial arts?" he asked and I just gaped at him. Was he serious? "Because if you are, I am willing to make a deal with

you, if you win this tournament, I will let you drop out of your classes but you will still have to train with me some days after school."

My heart was speeding up. Stop fighting? Was he serious? "Thank you Father, you mean you will truly let me stop fighting?"

"Only if you win the Street Fighter Competition, now go change, we are going to spar."

I ran up the stairs, my feet barley touching the steps. I could finally stop fighting? Then my heart sunk as I finally realized the catch to all of this. The Street Fighter Competition was one of the hardest fighting tournaments that we had in Wisconsin. Ages didn't matter, only skill did. You had to win at all of the different sections to be declared the winner, hand to hand, weapons, grappling (fighting from the ground) , and multiple attackers. You could be ten and be paired up with someone who was twenty five in any of theses challenges, they didn't care.

Very few people have ever one all of the sections to be called the true Street Fighter Campion; my father

had never planned on letting me stop fighting. He planned on me losing.

Well I didn't. I may only be fourteen, but I had three black belts in three different fighting styles and I was still learning three more besides those ones. I would prove my father wrong, I would win the tournament and I would finally be able to stop fighting.

Yeah right, like that was going to happen. Even though I had been fighting for eleven years, I was still very inexperienced compared to most of the people- most of whom will be male- who will be competing.

I sighed, my Father could be so cruel, he just wanted me to get my hopes up so I would train hard to ultimately become a better fighter, only to get my confidence crushed. I changed into some shorts and a baggy tee-shirt then headed to the exercise room to begin my torture.

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~
~~~

I really hated Robert May. Sometime I just imagined killing him, which was something that would cheer me up some days.

"Again," Lily's father screamed at her. Did Robert mean like devil or asshole or something? Because the only time that I had ever seen Lily's father be civilized to her was when he had company over and he had to pretend that he was a loving father.

"Get up," He yelled at Lily. Lily had lost her balance when they were sparing, which is actual fighting but with gear on their hands, feet, and heads to keep from hurting the person they were sparing with and also to protect themselves. But I guess that the devil himself didn't get that message, he looked like he was hitting his daughter as hard as he could.

I was so angry at this that I kept squawking and pecking and scratching at the window that leads to the basement. Lily keep looking up at me, now in my raven form, begging me with her eyes to go home, that I didn't need to see this. But if she honestly thought I was going to leave her, she had been hit in

the head way to many times. Well actually that was true, but what I meant is that she lost it.

Even if I wasn't endeared to her and she was only her best friend, I still wouldn't leave her, I couldn't. At this moment, I had never wanted anything more than to fly in there and scratch her father's eyes out for what he was doing to his daughter, to the girl that I loved. I would make him pay for this, I wasn't sure how, but someday, he would pay for everything that he had ever done to Lily.

"Get up!" he screamed at her again. Lily got up shakily to her feet and whipped the blood off of her face. "Begin," he called again. Lily hit him so hard in the face, so fast that he didn't even see it coming, and he actually fell to the ground. "Good," he told her getting back up as if nothing had happened, "do The Drill fifty times per side then you can be done for the day."

Lily kept in her mouth guard but took off her sparing gear and went over to the large punching bag in the corner. Jab, punch, duck, punch, jump, punch, uppercut, side kick.

I waited, silent now, for her to finish. When she did, she stumbled over to the window and opened it. I flew at the first second possible and sifted back into my human form. "Are you okay?" I demanded as soon as I could talk, "Let me see."

She turned her head away. "M'm minght," she said.

"What?"

She took out her bloodied mouth guard and tried again. "I'm alright," she choked out.

I grabbed her hand and pulled her into the small bathroom that was just off of the workout room. She was bruised and her lip was bleeding. I lifted her up and placed her on the counter while I reached under the sink for the first aid kit. She turned her head away when I tried to clean her spilt lip. I just grabbed her chin and made her face me. "Let me help you."

She sighed but listened. "Why didn't you leave?"

"I am not going to leave you Lil. Well I might when I go kill that asshole who claims to be your fa-"

"He's not worth it," she told me, "He never will be."

I finished cleaning her various cuts and lifted her off of the counter. "You need to eat more; you are a little to light."

"That's what happens when you over work your body, you end up puking, my father has been in a worse mood this week than I have ever seen him.

"I could just k-"

"You will not, I know you love me," she only thought this was a brotherly love, she could have never been so wrong, "but you can't kill him. I need you, and you being behind bars would not help me."

"Go take a shower," I told brusquely. "I am not sure how much longer I can handle you being in this house with him. I will be outside waiting in my car by the time you are out and ready."

I help her up the stairs- well carried her really- then I changed and flew back to my house as an extremely pissed off raven.

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~
~~~

"Going somewhere?" my father asked me as I came back down the stairs after cleaning up.

"The Ellsworth's have been kind enough to invite me over for the night and I found it rude to decline," I lied.

"And you didn't ask me," he growled.

"You have never before forbid me to see them, so I figured it would be acceptable and it was very sudden, you never gave me the chance."

He nodded, swallowing my excuses. "Have fun. I will call tomorrow at noon, and I expect for you to tell me how long you are planning to stay over there then."

"Thank you Father," I said than ran out the door and into Derek's car before he could change his mind.

For some reason I couldn't understand, Derek hugged me tightly as soon as I sat down. I gasped in pain, god I hated those damned training session. He let go of my immediately.

"Sorry," he said, "I just and glad that he let you out of the house, that he hasn't killed you yet, and that you

are safe, here, with me. I don't know how I would ever be able to live without my best friend." The best friend came after a second's hesitation.

Best friend, I thought, tears filling my eyes for some unfathomable reason.

"Lil," Derek asked alarmed, "are you alright?"

I wasn't even facing him, how did he know that I was about the cry? He hugged me, not so hard this time, to his chest. We just sat like that for a minute until I was fearful that my father would look out the window and get the wrong idea. "Come on, I am really hungry, isn't your mom making meat loaf tonight?"

He pouted and pretended to be hurt. "That is the only reason that you are my friend isn't it? For my mom's cooking?" Derek was so good of an actor that he as even able to get his voice to crack on the right words and make it sound and look like he was actually crying. He could be an actor if he wanted to be, he got out of school all the time by using his skills.

I rolled my eyes but I laughed. One reason that I loved Derek, he could always make me laugh, no matter how I was feeling, he always made me feel better. "Come on, Dee, you know I put up with you for more then the food, I as hang out with you for the free transportation, obviously."

He laughed. "I think that I should just get you to my house and count my losses before the number is too high for me to count."

"It would be a good idea," I told him giggling. Then we headed towards my true safe haven, Derek's house.

Chapter 4

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 4)

Chapter 4

"Derek!" I heard Mrs. Ellsworth yell up the stairs, "Dinner is ready!"

Derek groaned and got up off his bed and walked out of his room, not without grabbing my hand and forcing me to go with him. "Pushy," I murmured and threw the book I was reading on his bed.

He didn't let go of my hand as he lead me downstairs to the dinning room. He sat in the chair next to me while his parents sat in the chairs at the head of the table and his little sister sat across from us. "Lily?" She asked me.

"What sweetie?" Scarlett was the cutest eight year old that you could ever find. She looked just like a pixie with her short caramel hair that curled just above her shoulders. She was so innocent looking that your first instinct on seeing her was to protect her.

"Are you and Dee dating?" She asked in her bell-like voice. She was the only one besides me that was allowed to call Derek that.

I blushed and Derek- unbelievably- started to laugh. "Uh." What was I supposed to say? No, but I like him? Hell no! "No, Sweetie, we are just best friends."

Scarlett looked at her mom confused, "But you said that Derek-"

"Not now Scarlett," Derek said in a harsh voice. I had never heard Derek ever speak to his younger sister this way before.

She pouted and her mother soothed her. "I will tell you about it later."

"But why can't we talk about it now?" She whined, "Lily should know, it's about her." I sat there shocked, what was about me. "D-"

"Scarlett, I said after dinner, now finish all of your peas, if you don't finish all of them, then no desert."

The rest of the dinner was mostly quiet. I was still trying to figure out what Scarlett meant. What does 'it's about her' mean? When dinner was done, I excused myself to go take a shower.

When I was done, I heard talking floating through the bathroom wall that lead to Scarlett's room. "But mom, Dee should tell her, she should know!"

"Yeah, from me Scar, not from you, I will tell her when I am ready." Derek's voice was agitated and somewhat frantic.

"But you're endeared to her, she should know, she w-"

"It's not like one of your love stories, just because I tell her that I am bound to her doesn't mean that she is going to magically fall in love with me."

"But Dee-"

"Scarlett honey, just let Derek make his own decisions, if he wants to wait to tell her then he can."

"But mom, he should tell her, she deserves to know."

"She does, but Derek will tell her when he is ready. Goodnight Scarlett."

"Goodnight Mom, 'night Dee."

"Goodnight Scar. I promise to tell you after I tell her, but only if you wait for me to tell her instead of you trying to get us together."

I heard her giggle, then I quickly scrambled around the room so it would seem like I had been finishing up in the bathroom, then I entered Derek's room. He was sitting on his bed with his face in his hands. I walked over quietly and put my arm around his shoulder. He leaded into my embrace without lifting his head.

"What's wrong?" I asked playing dumb.

"My Mimer."

"What?"

He raised his head from his hands to look at me. "My sister."

"Is everything alright with her?"

He blinked a few times before he seemed able to answer; I hadn't known how close our faces were until he seemed a little bemused. "I-she- everything is alright don't worry about it."

I sighed, he was a horrible liar. But then I couldn't take it anymore. "I know you are lying. I heard everything."

He jerked out of my embrace and his face was paler than I had ever seen it. "What did you hear?" He asked and his voice broke.

"What does it mean to be... 'endeared' to someone?"

He sighed seeming defeated. "IT's when a shape shifter is completely bound to someone from the moment that they lay eyes on them, it is impossible to get rid of the link. The girls that shifters are bound to are the only humans that can bare a shape shifting child; other wise only two shifters can have kids. The one who has been endeared on won't be conscious of the bound until they kiss. I am not sure why that is, are what happens when both people are aware of the bound, but I do know that it happens."

"So you think that you are bound to me?" I asked him quietly.

He looked down. "Yes, I know I am," he whispered.

"Well let's just see how right you are about that," I whispered then leaned forward to press my lips to his. When they touched, my world exploded.

Chapter 5

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 5)

Chapter 5

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~

"So you think that you are bound to me?" she asked in disbelief.

I looked away from her, she would run from me now, I wasn't sure that I could handle seeing her face when she did. "Yes, I know I am."

"Well let's just see how right you are about that." In the second that it took me to figure out what she meant she was already leaning towards me, my body more aware of her than I had ever been. I couldn't
~~~

have stopped what happened next even if I wanted to-and I didn't want to.

Her lips touched mine and my arms snaked around her waist at the same time that hers flew around my neck. I pulled her towards me as she crushed her lips to mine. We were getting closer and closer until it felt like we would merge and create one person, that's when it happened.

I felt a sharp tug in my chest and suddenly, I heard things, felt things that I shouldn't have, it was a soul link.

What's happening? I heard Lily's frightened voice in my head seeing as we were still kissing so she couldn't have said it out loud.

Don't worry; I will never let anything bad happen to you. I wasn't quite sure how we were communicating this way- or how I was even capable of coherent thought- but it was happening.

I had never felt anything like this before. I felt all of my emotions and Lily's.

You loved me all of this time? She asked me in awe.

My first impulse was to lie to her, to keep up my façade that I was only her best friend, but I didn't have anything to hide anymore. I loved you for as long as I can remember, it's a natural response for me, it's engrained into me.

I felt her love grow and I barley stifled a gasp at the intensity of it. It wasn't as strong as the love I felt for her, but it was close, more than I had ever expected from her.

She broke away from the kiss then, gasping. I leaned my forehead against hers, also struggling for air.

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

So what does this mean? I thought to myself.

Derek laughed breathlessly. "That I was right," he said both out loud and in his mind. And that I am never going to let you go now that you are finally mine.

Who said that I'm yours? He suddenly didn't seem as light hearted, he seemed to be panicking. I was kidding, I thought. Oh Dee, I am sorry, you probably
~~~

didn't mean for me to hear that... I added as an afterthought.

"No," he said immediately contradicting my assumption. "I want you to know everything; don't be embarrassed about hearing it."

I hadn't realized that I was embarrassed until he said that but I knew that he was right. How long does this last.

He shuffled through old memories of stories about endearment, but came up with no answer to that, the stories hadn't even talked about the 'complete soul link' as he called it.

He let go of me unexpectedly and started to get off of the bed. Wait, I pretested mentally while clinging to him.

Derek laughed and kissed my cheek. This was so new that it surprised me and I had to blink a few times to process it the moment before he started talking. "I want to see how strong it link is." When he tried to get up this time, I reluctantly let go. He stopped when he was in the doorway. Damn she looks hot, he

thought as he looked at me. Since he thought it, I could tell her wasn't lying.

I blushed and hid behind my dark black hair.

"You heard that?"

"No," I said sarcastically, "I just periodically start blushing randomly, obviously I heard you!"

"Well it is true."

"I think that you are a little biased."

"Maybe a little bit. I, um, I have to go take a shower, I'll be right back," he said and I could see the blood creeping up his neck and into his face. I am just looking at her and I am already getting a damn hard on.

I tried to keep a straight face, but I failed miserably and I went into hysterics.

"When I said before that I wanted you to know everything, well this is the exception, out of my head!"

I smirked at him. "Sorry Dee can't do that."

He groaned-bright red now-and headed into the bathroom that was in between his room and his little sister's. Since I was already in my pajamas, I turned off the light and climbed into Derek's bed. Ha, leave him with the ground, I thought.

Who said I am sleeping on the ground, I heard Derek think, still in the shower.

Well I sure as hell not, I thought sleepily. If he answered, I was already too gone to hear it.

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~

I just stood there for a moment at the door looking at Lily. The moonlight making her black hair shimmer and her skin look deathly pale. I shook my head and started to dig through my closet to find my sleeping bag.

"Dee," I heard her mumble, her violet eyes unseeing but staring at me, "I'll make room, just come over here."

"Are you sure?"
~~~

"Mhm," she murmured moving over to one side of the bed.

I came over and collapsed onto the bed, getting comfortable before I pulled her into me.

"Derek, how come you smell so good, like the air on top of a mountain?"

I laughed; Lily was so extremely funny was she was tired, she would say anything on her mind, regardless of how awkward or weird it was. "Not sure Lil."

"Okay. Goodnight Derek. I love you."

I froze for a second, I had waited most of my life to hear those words and when I did, my mind shut down, unable to comprehend anything while a wave of pure emotion crashed over me. "Love you too Lily, always have always will." I felt so good to finally say that out loud, to not have to hold it back.

I finally told her, and she hadn't run from me. I could hold her, kiss her now, she was mine. I drifted off into a blissful sleep with my life sleeping in my arms.

{Author's Note: sorry the chapter is a little boring. I am also sorry that I can't get italisis on here so some of the thoughts are a little confusing, I hope that you figgured out what were thoughts and what weren't. Please comment and vote.

-Katie}

Chapter 6

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 6)

Chapter 6

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

I opened my eyes and blinked. The warm sun was streaming through the window and onto my face. I tried to sit up, but I felt steal bands tighten around me. "Derek," I whispered, "may I get up now?"

"No," he mumbled, still clearly asleep.

He buried his face in my hair. "Dee, let me go."

"Never."

Then I decided to have a little fun with his. I twisted in his arms so that I was facing him. Then I brought
~~~

my lips so that they were less then an inch from his. "Dee, let me up or else."

"Or else what?" he groaned.

"You asked for it," I said, then leaned forward the half and inch needed to brush my lips against his. He kissed me back and his arms went from around my waist to holding my face between his hands.

I smiled and slipped off of the bed and out of range of his reach. His gray eyes flew open. "What the he-"

I smirked. "You didn't get up, so I had to make you let me go."

"So you're going to what now?"

I frowned; I didn't really think that far ahead. "I am going to go make breakfast." It sounded more like a question.

"No," he said his eyes full of lust, "I think that you are going to finish what you started, and then you can go make your food."

I pretended to think about it. How much could I make him suffer?

"Lil," he warned, "you better not be thinking what I think you are thinking."

So he knew me? Well, that made it all the more fun. I stepped closer so that I could stroke his cheek lightly with my hand. His eyes closed again and he trembled. Yes, this would be lots of fun. "And what am I thinking?" I asked in a sultry voice. Before he could answer, I ran my fingers along his lips and he trembled again.

"You-You're-" he broke off.

"I'm what?"

"You're doing it." He was having a great difficulty speaking, I could barley stop my laugher. Derek was always so cool, so self-contained and I was, without even trying- making him lose that imperturbableness about him.

"Doing what?" I whispered, tracing the outline of his face but staying far enough away that he couldn't hold me which I could still feel that he wanted to through the link we had. Actually he wanted to do more than just hold me, but we were in the same

house as his eight year old sister and his parents, not exactly the best time for that.

Making me want you, he thought and I smiled. Then I did something so mean. I knew I had turned his on, so I turned away and headed toward the door of his room. So fast that I almost wasn't ready for it, he had jumped out of his bed and his arms were around my waist. "You honestly think that after all of that that I am seriously going to let you leave?"

No. "Yes Dee, I do think that."

He chuckled. "Think again," he whispered huskily. He spun me around and crushed his lips to mine. I could have played with him a little more, but I couldn't have stopped the kiss even if he allowed me to move. I was pretty sure that I wasn't going anywhere until he was done with me.

I felt his tongue brush against my lower lip and I parted mine, giving him entrance. But it seemed that it was his turned to play with me. His tongue was still brushing against my lips and I trembled. I felt him smile and then he pulled away.

"Hey!" I protested. He just laughed. "Okay, I see your point. No one...tempts the other, deal?"

"Hmmm," he murmured, kissing the hollow at the base of my neck. "Birds don't make truces."

I rolled my eyes, but I was very much affected by how close he was. "Dee, you're not a raven at the moment."

"Oh, in that case, deal," he said. "You do know how to make a deal unbreakable, correct?"

"Uh, I don't think so, how?"

"Like this," Derek said and kissed me on the lips again.

"Dee! Mom wants you!" Scarlett yelled knocking on his door.

We both jumped and separated a little guilty even though the door was closed and no one had actually seen us kissing. "Coming Scar," he called back, taking my hand and leading me out of his room.

Scarlett, only being a little taller than Derek's waist, noticed our joined hands the second that we opened

the door and entered the hallway. "Dee," she whined, "you said that you would tell me after you told Lily, you lied."

"Sweetie," I told her bending down to her level. "I just found out last night, we were just going to tell you," I lied.

"Oh, okay Lily," she said in her angle voice then turned to Derek. "You were wrong; it was just like my love stories. You tell her and you both end up having a happily ever after."

We both laughed. It must be wonderful to live in a world where everything works out and there is not a trouble at all. "What does Mom want anyway?" Derek asked Scarlett.

"Not sure, she just wanted you and Lily to go downstairs. And, oh, can I tell her, can I, can I?" She was bouncing up and down and had the cutest puppy-dog eyes I had ever seen.

"Sure Scar." And with that, she ran down the stairs and into the kitchen where Derek's mom was making pancakes.

"Mommy, Mommy, Mommy!"

"What Scarlett?" she asked taking her daughter in her arms.

"Dee told Lily and now they are happy and going to get married and I am going to get to go over and play with their kids Mommy."

How did she get the last part? I mentally asked Derek.

She really needs to stop watching all of those Disney movies; they seem to be messing with her brain. The thought was exceptionally amused.

"Is that so?" Mrs. Ellsworth asked.

"Yeah Mommy."

She looked up at her son with happy expression on her face. "And when did you plan on telling your father and I about all of these wonderful plans?" she teased.

Derek shrugged. "I didn't know we were planning them," he laughed.

Just then, my cell phone decided to go off. I walked into the empty living room to answer it. "Hello?"

"Training in an hour, don't be late," my father said before hanging up. I sighed; he knew how to ruin the perfect day didn't he?

I stopped before I entered the kitchen when I heard his mom whispering. "I hope you aren't taking advantage of her," she was saying.

"Mom-" Derek started to complain.

"She already has enough going on with that Father of hers; I don't want you taking advantage of her and I don't want you having... well you know what until after you are married."

"Mom!" he whispered horrified, "Now is not the best time for the sex talk."

"But-" I figured now would be a good time to save him from this awkward conversation, so I stepped into the kitchen and his mom didn't finish her sentence.

"Dee," I sighed, "I need a ride, I have to go home."

He nodded and his mom gave him a look as if to say, 'see'. He took my hand and led me back up to his room. The second that the door closed, I let out my pent up amusement.

"What?" he asked cautiously as I was rolling on the floor because I was laughing so hard.

"Are you going to 'take advantage' of me," I chocked out laughing even harder.

"You heard that?!" He sounded even more appalled than when she brought it up. I couldn't answer, all my air was spent on my giggles. "Come on," he grunted, embarrassed, "we have to get you home."

That sobered me. I forgot all about the torture that I was about to endure. I nodded and picked up my stuff and headed out to his car.

It must have been pretty interesting for the neighbors to see two teenagers in there pajama with bed head walking around, but honestly, neither of us cared.

"I'll be back in five minutes," Derek told me solemnly as we pulled up to house.

"No," I said out of habit, "you don't have to see that, you are staying at home!"

He rolled his eyes. Five minutes, he thought and turned his car around so he could drop is off at his house. I sighed, he was impossible.

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~

The worst thing about being a shape-shifter was the transformation. It was exceedingly painful. To transform, your body literally needs to shift and in order to do that, every bone in you body needs to break and reassemble itself. Imagine breaking a bone and then it starting to heal, then imagine the doctor having to re-break it because it set wrong. Yeah, it was that painful. And you had to endure it for about thirty seconds to a minute, depending on what animal you shifted into. I took, thankfully, the shortest time.

After about ten shifts, your body got used to it and you nerve receptors didn't register as much pain, but it still hurt like hell. It hurt more the smaller the animal you were, lucky for me, I was a freaking bird.
~~~

Hear the sarcasm there? Because that is the smallest animal that is possible for us to change into.

It blinked taking in my surrounding. A bird's sight was much better than a human's. Actually most animal's were. I-being as smart as I am- forgot to open my bedroom widow before I changed. I stretched out my now slightly throbbing wings and flew to my sister's room.

"Hey Dee," she giggled, "you look funny."

I rolled my eyes at her. No duh, I was a raven!

"You're so cute and so small-"

I squawked to cut off her rant and flew to her windowsill. Please let me out, pleated with my eyes.

"Oh, you want to go outside?" she asked finally getting it. I nodded my head, now covered in dark black feathers, and she opened it for me. "Going to see Lily?"

I nodded again and flew as fast as I possibly could to her house.

And what I saw made me angrier than I had ever been.

Chapter 7

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 7)

Chapter 7

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

"Again," my father screamed for the tenth time, "get up." And when I didn't, he said, "You are weak, worthless. Get up!"

I grimaced and got back up from the floor and wiped the blood from my face. My father and I were sparing again and he wasn't holding back much on his hits. Thank god that Derek still wasn't here yet. If I was lucky, he wouldn't show up at all.
~~~

I was starting to get very angry now. I threw punch after punch at a speed that surprised me. He was only able to block the first four before I landed the next ten on him, he stumbled back. I didn't even give him the time to recover, I hit him again, this time a kick in the stomach with all the power that I had left; which, admittedly, would have been nothing if I wasn't so fueled by my anger.

I hit him and he hit the wall, but I was the one to hit the floor. "Get up!" my father screamed at me, when I didn't, he looked down at me and hissed, "You are worthless. You have the power, the knowledge, but you are too weak to use it, you will never amount to anything."

I heard frantic flapping at the window and I figured wit some distance part of my mind that wasn't focused on the pain that Derek had gotten here. I didn't really focus on it. "You will never be strong," my father said continuing with his rant. "I guess that means you will never win the Street Fighting Tournament so you will never be able to quite fighting as you so wish," he laughed. That bastard!

I couldn't comment, I was too busy on the ground, coughing out my own blood. I had bruises all over my body and I could barley move my own limbs. I was also fighting to stay conscious.

"Do The Drill fifty times for each side. Do not come up until you finish," my father said and walked back up the stairs without a backwards glance.

I could hear Derek's outraged squawks coming from behind the closed window to the workout room. I wouldn't open it, and I knew he couldn't as to the fact that he was currently shifted into his raven form. I was going to finish what my father told me and I knew Derek wouldn't allow me to do that.

I wiped the blood off of my mouth and tried to swallow the rest that was in my mouth. God I hated blood, especially when you were coughing it up. I stood up shakily and turned up the music on the stereo so that I could drown both my pain and Derek's futile attempts to get me to let him in.

I lost myself in the upbeat music as I did The Drill. It was so engrained in me that I didn't need to truly concentrate. All I was aware of beside the music was

the black dots in my vision, the screaming in my muscles, the number I was on, and Derek's frantic voice coming from somewhere in the back of my mind form the soul link that we shared.

100. I fell towards the wall and used the last of the strength I had to open up the window. I sank gratefully to the ground.

"Lily," Derek demanded, "are you alright?"

When did he shift back? My brain though fuzzily, then I felt his arms around me and I let the darkness take me.

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~

I am going to kill him! Was the only thought that ran through my mind as I watched Lily's father scream at her as she was on the floor coughing up blood.

He barked out a final order to her and he left the room. That caused me to snap more than I already had. I made the loudest noises that I possibly could as a raven but he didn't even seem to notice.
~~~

I could tell that Lily did though, he body tensed and she turned her head away from me. She was trying to hide her bruises from me. My blood turned cold. I would kill him! But Lily needed me now so I would stay, that and I heard the garage shut and his engine rev as he sped away down the street. Coward.

Lily finally stood up after a few failed attempts, and then she stumbled her way over to the radio that was embedded into the wall of the basement and cranked it up.

Somehow, she made it over to the wavemaster in the corner and started what her father had told her to do. Jab, punch, duck, punch, jump, punch, uppercut, side kick.

The man had beaten her and then she still does what he asks?!

Lily! Let me in! I pleaded to her through our link. She didn't answer but her hits had more rhythm and she went faster. I kept begging her to open the window but the only thoughts that I really got from her were numbers.

100, she thought and then she stumbled into the wall. Her arms slowly came up and Lily was able to open up the window with trembling fingers. I flew though the opening before she even had it all the way open.

She sank to the floor as I was shifting back into a human. "Lily," I asked panicked, "are you alright?"

I took her into my arms and she thought something incoherent then passed out.

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

Ow, I thought and opened my eyes. What happened? I was in my room on my bed and my whole body was sore, my head pounding.

I tried to sit up but then I realized that there was something holding me down. Derek's arm. He was sleeping peacefully and his arms were around me tightly, not tight enough that it hurt my battered body, but enough that I couldn't move.

I looked at my right and saw a bottle of pain relievers and a glass of water on my bedside table. I grabbed two pills and downed the cool water. It felt so good in my raw throat.
~~~

I tried to wriggle out of his grip, but he woke up before I was really able to try. Derek's eyes flew open and he sat up as if he was expecting someone to jump out of my closet and try to attack me.

When he saw that I was awake, he asked, "Lil, how are you holding up?"

I tried to sit up, not my best idea, it hurt like hell. I sucked in a breath and refused to let myself cry. Derek put his hand on my shoulder-which miraculously wasn't hurt- and eased me back on to the bed.

"Stay." When I didn't move, he repeated his question, "How are you? What hurts?"

"Well, moving hurts, I am pretty sure that I have a bruised rib- well, a few actually- breathing deeply hurts, and I can still taste blood. But, on the Brightside, I feel better that you are here with me."

He smiled, but it looked like he was in pain. "I am glad, that you can find a Brightside to this." But I am still going to kill him, he thought in pure rage.

He started to get up and I yanked him back down. "Dee, I may have a horrible father, but that does not mean that you can kill him regardless of how much he hurt me."

He smiled more genially but still sadly, wanna bet? I could still here the rage emanating strongly from him. "I can take this lightly, he hurt you."

"I will be fine." Then I thought of something. "What happened? I remember starting The Drill, then...nothing."

"You let me in when you finished then you passed out. After I spent a minute freaking out, I carried you up stairs and I was able to fix up your split lip but I don't know what was bleeding in your mouth and I figured it was best to wait before I did anything else. You were out for a good two hours.""

I nodded. "Thank you."

"No problem Lil. We should get that rib taken care of, come on, let's get you out to the car so that we can get a doctor to look at it."

I paled. "No," I croaked. Ever since I was four, I had been terrified of the doctors and ten years didn't really change that. Derek knew that too, but I could tell that he was too worried about my health to fully take in perspective of my aversions. I cleared my throat and tried again. "Go in the bathroom and get me the white horse wrap in my drawer."

Horse wrap was a thin, stretchy material that I used to wrap up things like hurt ankles and bad wrists, it suck to itself, stayed in place, and it was strong. That and it was cheep. He came back seconds later and handed me the roll.

"Help me sit up; I need to wrap this around my abdomen." He nodded and helped me sit up and I tried not to hiss in pain. I carefully wrapped up my stomach, ignoring the bruises, and my ribs felt indistinctly better.

Seeing how bad I was beat up, I could both see and feel how much Derek's anger was rising.

I had planed on keeping him talking to keep him here, but my body was trying to get me to sleep so that it could heal itself. "Dee?" I murmured.

"Yeah Lil?"

"Don't leave me, no matter what," I said then fell asleep in his arms.

Chapter 8

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 8)

Chapter 8

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~

"Dee?"

"Yeah Lil?"

"Don't leave me, no matter what," she said then fell asleep.

I started at Lily, sleeping peacefully; the expression of pain whipped clean of her face now that she was unconscious. I went to kill her father more than anything, for all the pain that he had caused. So what was holding me back?!
~~~

His daughter sleeping in my arms. I lived by her word, if she told me that I couldn't leave her, the I couldn't, if she told me that I couldn't kill him, then I would not be able to. I had to do what she said whether I wanted to or not.

I didn't get this. Why did what she say matter so much all of a sudden?

You cannot fight the bound, a little voice in the back of my mind whispered.

What the hell? What did that mean? I needed answers and I needed them now. I shifted my weight slightly. Lily rolled over, hugging herself to me. I moved slightly once more so that I could slip my cell phone out of my pocket.

"Wiseman," I whispered into the phone, "we need to meet up."

The gruff voice on the other line laughed. "Derek, when are you going to stop calling me Wiseman?"

I smirked. "You started it Mr. I-know-it-all so I am going to give you crap about it for the next -oh- as long as I live."

I could almost see him roll his eyes. "What do you want Derek? Advice on the war?"

I paled. "What war?"

"Hmmm, it seems we do have a lot to talk about. Come to my house and we will talk."

"I can't."

"Why not?"

"I can't leave her here alone when she told me to stay."

"Oh, your endeared? Lily?" He was one of the few shifters that I had told about Lily, the others that I had told knew that I was endeared to someone but not who.

"Yeah."

"Bring her here with you, Adel and I won't mind." Adelaide, or Adel as we called her, was his wife.

I smiled. The old man was as nice as they came. "Thank you, we will come as soon as she wakes up."

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~
~~~

I woke up the same as before, with Derek's arms around me. "Are you actually awake this time?"

"Huh?" I mumbled, confused.

"Well you have already 'woken up' three times already then you end up saying something insanely funny then falling asleep again."

I blushed. "What did I say?"

"Can't tell, but you can be very descriptive of how you think of my looks. I should have gotten it on tape. Any sudden bursts of pride that I might get will be from your comments on how I 'look like a god.'"

He started laughing and I flipped onto my stomach to hide my face in my pillow, it was the best I could do because his hold on me was preventing me from running away. "I must have been high on the pain killers, it makes you see things."

"How many did you take?"

"Two."

"I am pretty sure that you can't get high on just two pills," he chuckled, "but don't quote me on that."

I groaned in exasperation but I ended up swallowing half of my pillow. "I am going to take a shower."

"'Kay. But hurry, I am taking you somewhere."

"Where?"

"To a friend of mine's. I need to ask him a question and I am not leaving you here where that ass whole how dares to call himself your father might come home."

"Overprotective," I grumbled as I pulled clothes out of my draws.

"I would get used to it now," Derek laughed as I shut myself into the bathroom next door.

"We are in the middle of no where. Why are we in the middle of no where?"

Derek smirked. "I may be overprotective but you are impatient."We had been driving for about a half an hour and now we where out in the country surrounded by rolling hills covered in green grass and the occasional farm. I still didn't get why we were in the middle of no where. "We are out here

because my friend lives out here," Derek said picking up on my thought.

"Who is your friend anyway?"

"You'll find out soon enough."

A few minutes, we turned down a dirt road that leads into a small woods and I gasped.

This had to be one of the most beautiful houses in Texas. The Victorian home looked over a hundred years old in the style but the houses itself looked in mint condition, like it was just made this year.

The house had a porch that ran along the whole front wall and the left side of the house was square in shape and the right side of the house was curved-circular rooms where warm light emanated from. The front door opened and an older couple that looked in their early forties came out.

The man had short brown hair and the woman had light brown hair with silver streaks in it. "Derek," the man said in a rough voice, "nice to see you after such a long time, and you must be Lily, it is nice to finally

meet you after hearing so much about you. You are beautiful as he has described."

I blushed. I didn't even know this man and he was already giving me compliments. "Lily, this is Wiseman and his wife, Adelaide."

The man smiled. "Ignore him, my name is really Ethan and my wife prefers to be called Adel."

"Nice to meet you both," I told them.

Adel smiled. "Why don't you two come in, I just made some tea."

I smiled. This was just like the movies. Nice older couple, nice old house, oh and add the tea. "What did you say about me," I whispered to Derek as we followed them in.

He shrugged a little too innocent. "Nothing."

"Nothing bad, don't worry," Ethan interrupted before I could demand what 'nothing' meant.

Hmmm, the older man had good hearing, I thought in surprise. We honestly weren't talking that loud.

"He's a shifter," Derek clarified for me.

"I was a shifter. I haven't shifted in years."

"You were the cutest Tiger," Adel laughed. I did too, not many people considered Tigers cute so if he was, he must have not been too scary looking.

"So Derek," Ethan said, seeming embarrassed by his wife's comment, "what brings you here besides not hearing about-" he broke off when he saw my confused expression, "well you know?"

"I need to know more about endearment," He said, and Ethan nodded. Derek held me close to his side since I was clearly looking more at the inside of the house more than where I was going.

The house had red rugs on the floor, furniture that was resembled a renaissance style, and paintings on the walls that I had never seen before. Also it smelled of flowers.

I slipped out of Derek's grip around my waist and walked to a painting on the wall. It looked exactly like the scene out side, the house with flowers lining the porch but the sun was just setting behind the

house and the sky was a swirl of pinks, oranges, purples, and yellows. "It's beautiful," I murmured.

"Why thank you. That one took me almost a week to paint."

"You painted this? I thought that this was created by a professional. Anyone would buy this from you in a second."

"I am sure they would," Ethan laughed, "if she ever had the heart to give them up."

We headed into the living room and Derek and I sat on the couch, Ethan sat on a chair and Adel left into what I believed to be the kitchen. "So what are you curious about?" the old man asked, "You have known that you were endeared for her since you were five."

That long?! I thought but Ethan was already continuing.

"I also thought that you never told her."

"I didn't until last night." It was surprising that so much had happened in such a little time. It seemed like Derek told me weeks ago.

"I see. What confuses you? You have heard the stories before."

"Yeah, but I never really listened," Derek laughed then grew serious. "We have a... a soul link, is that normal?"

Ethan smiled. "Is it," Adel said coming back into the room setting a tray of tea on the table then sitting on the arm of Ethan's chair. "Strange hearing his thoughts?" she asked me mischievously then winking.

"Strange indeed," I smirked, "or embarrassing, depends and your view point. I say hilarious."

Both men looked away embarrassed, they knew what we were talking about. Like what Derek thought the other night to see if we really had a soul link.

"Did you also figure out that the link causes you to feel the other's pain?"

"It does?" we both gasped, shocked.

"Yes."

Derek shook his head. "Lily was hurt very badly this morning- beaten actually- and I didn't feel her pain."

"Oh you did, but beaten you said?" he asked and Derek nodded, "I just think that you were too mad to really noticed it, that your rage over rid the pain." Then he looked anxiously at me, "Who was it?"

"Her father," Derek sneered, "He called it Martial Arts training but he could have easily ended up killing her."

"Dee," I took his shaking hand firmly in mine, "I am fine, it was nothing that I couldn't handle."

"But-"

I cut him off by asking the older couple a question. "Does having a soul link mean anything else?"

They were both looking at Derek, seeing worried about what he would do regarding my father. "Not that I can think of at the moment," Adel answered.

"Wiseman," Derek asked, calm now, "what does it mean when you can't go against their word? Like when they tell you something, you have to do it?"

"Hmmm, you mean the compel? It's when if the one that you are endeared to tell you not to do something, you may want to, but you body will not allow you too; no matter how hard you fight it. It also means if they tell you to do something, you feel strongly impelled to do it, but it is much easier to fight. It is one way for our endeared to keep us shifters in line."

"So you mean if I tell Dee that he cannot get up from the couch, then that means he can't?" I laughed. The whole idea of compulsion seemed impossible.

Adel smiled. "Exactly. If you are serious that is. I once told Ethan that he couldn't talk to me, he couldn't talk for a whole week," she laughed.

But Ethan on the other hand looked a little mortified about this. "You couldn't imagine how hard it is to apologize when no sound will past your lips," he mumbled. "So Derek," he said to get the focus off of him, " I think we need to talk about the w-" he broke off looking at Derek's face but when I looked at him, his face was expressionless.

For a moment I thought the older couple was having a mental conversation, but in the next moment, Adel was talking. "Lily, why don't we head upstairs, I would love to show you my art studio."

I smiled. "Sure."

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~

I watched as the girls headed up the stairs and then turned to Ethan. "Thanks for getting rid of Lily, Wiseman;" I told him gratefully, "I don't want her to know about the war, which, I don't even know about it."

"I am surprised you haven't heard about considering your rank," he said.

For every different kind of shifter, there was a leader and a second in command. I was the legate, the second-in-command of the bird-shifters. There was only one person higher than me was Wei. So there was no reason that I had not known about any new news immediately.

"I need to know about this war Wiseman."
~~~

"Well, the Weres and the Vamps had it going off," he stated the obvious.

Were-people were a special kind of shifters who could only change at specific times; usually it was full moons and weren't nearly as powerful as true shifters or lived as long. People bit by true shifters were also true shifters so no one really knew how the were-people were created. Vampires hated the smell of were-animal's blood and the were-people were naturally wary of the bloodsuckers so they were constantly in some sort of disagreement. The true shifters like Ethan, Adel, and I never got involved in their petty arguments.

"So what's new there?" I asked confused. Their disagreements over land could not start a war could it?

"Last full moon-which was a few weeks ago- a new werewolf killed a new vamp after he found it on their land. The vamps retaliated by killing a werebear in result and started a bloodbath between the two species."

"So what does this have to do with us?"

"One of ours tried to reason with them to stop the war, but the leaders were both attacked by the other side and they killed the girl thinking that they had been lead into a trap and now they believe that the Agency had sent her to kill off their 'kings'."

Both kinds thought that kings were better than just and elected leader as true shifters had. But there was so much inner fighting that no one really considered them a ruler.

"Who was it?" I asked.

"Amanda." This was bad. Most true shifters didn't believe in fighting, but killing the sea leader's, Lukas's, mate along with the attack was enough to enrage enough shifters to get us involved in this war.

There were three main shifter groups, the land shifters, the water-or sea- shifters, and the air-or bird- shifters. Each one had a leader and a second-in-command; both of them were part of the Agency, the Agency made decisions for all shifters and created a jury when someone broke shifter law. We didn't have many laws. Not stealing or killing some one's

endeared one was one of them. So we were almost forced to get involved.

If they hadn't of attacked our Agency, then only the marine shifters might have gotten involved but the attack require the other two groups to get sucked into it too.

Even though the war had just started, there was no way of stopping it now.

"Are they drafting yet or is it still by choice?"

"They haven't started to necessitate people to fight yet so I believe that it is still if you want to fight, but I am not sure, it could have changed. If they do draft, they start with the ones who aren't endeared," Ethan explained.

Although I was a guy, I hated fighting unless I had too. Despite the fact that it was my duty to fight because of my ranking, I didn't have too unless they started drafting.

"Hey Wiseman? How can they make people fight when their endeared ones will feel their pain? And

what happens if the one who you are endeared to is killed?" I inquired.

"You can hear thoughts hundreds of miles away if you concentrate but to feel their pain, you must be fairly close. I think you have to be within a half mile, but I would rather not test that. And you will feel if they are killed no matter where you are, but it won't kill you; it will be more like a gut wrenching pain, more likely to make you puke than to kill you."

I nodded then I heard footsteps coming back down the stairs. "I will talk to Wei about it."

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

"This is amazing," I whispered twisting to take in the whole room. Two walls of the room were glass showing the amazing view of the sun which was now setting and the light catchers that hung on the clear glass threw colorful pictures on the white walls. Painting and statues also filled the room. Some were of the house, others landscape, Ethan, and some were of other people. A boy and a girl both with Adelaide's light brown hair.
~~~

"Those are my kids," she said proudly.

I smiled slightly. "They look just like you two."

"Gabriela," she pointed to the girl, "is our youngest, she's twenty-two. Jeff," she pointed to the boy, "is thirty-five."

I nodded. It must have been great to have such nice parents. I could only imagine what it would be like for them to grow up in a place like this.

"Adel?" I asked.

"Yes?"

"So how did you take Ethan being a shape shifter when he told you? I have known what Derek was practically my whole life so I am just wondering what it would be like for someone to just be told that."

She laughed. "I wonder that sometimes too." I looked back at her, confused. "I am a shifter too," she explained, "it is funny actually. Ethan is a Tiger and I am a deer which Tigers eat." I didn't entirely see how

that was so funny. "But you get used to it after the first twenty or so years."

"If you don't mind me asking, how old are you two, you honestly don't seem that old." She looked barley forty-five and she had a thirty year old kid and talked about twenty years as if it was no time at all.

"Ethan is one hundred and ten and I am a hundred and eight."

I froze. "Over a hundred?" I chocked out.

"Mhm. Didn't Derek mention that shifters live about five hundred years? It's not nearly as long as Vampires and not nearly as short as the were-people, but it is still pretty long."

Oh my god. "No, he didn't tell me this," I gasped out. I sank to the floor in the middle of the room that was cluttered with easels with half finished pictures on them and other art equipment. "That-that-"

"Is a lot to take in?" Adel guessed sitting down by me and rubbing my back soothingly. I nodded. It was a minute before I could wrap my mind around the fact.

An alarm went off on my watch and we both jumped. "Oh, it's late. We have to go; I have to be back by curfew."

She nodded. "I see."

"Adel, do you think that Derek and I can come back soon? I really enjoyed meeting you guys."

She smiled. "I would love that. You two can come back at anytime," she said and we headed back downstairs.

"I will talk to Wei about it," Derek was saying.

"Dee," I said, "we have to go, it's eight thirty already and we have to leave now to make it back by my curfew."

"Okay, let's go. Thanks Wiseman."

"Bye Ethan, bye Adel," I said and followed Derek out of the door.

"Goodbye, don't forget to come visit us either," she said.

"I won't," I smiled and shut the door. We got into Derek's car and headed back into the city.

{Author's Note: I think that that is the longest chapter that I have ever wrote. lol. I tried to give you info on shape shifters and the war with being as clear as possible, I hope that it made as much sense to you as it did to me, if it didn't PLEASE tell me so i fix it.

Here's what Lily looks like- http://www.hairfinder.com/articles2005/asian.jpg well, it is as close as I could get, all she needs is voilet eyes and she is perfect, and here is what Derek looks like- http://media.photobucket.com/image/jet%20black%20haired%20boy/ardypants626/Jared.jpg

I hope you like my story. :)

-Katie}

Chapter 9

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 9)

Chapter 9

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

"What are you doing?" I hissed at Derek when he got to my house.

"Why I am sleeping over at your house, that's what."

I rolled my eyes, but I was still anxious. "I can see that, but if you walk in with you arm around my waist, my dad is going to think that we are more than friends."

"I don't care what that ass think," he stated coldly.

"Yeah, but that ass can kick you out of the house."
~~~

"I'll fly in through your window."

But he will probably beat me later, I thought despairingly. "Just let go, please." He groaned and let me go reluctantly. "Hello Father," I said as I stepped through the threshold.

"Lily, were have you been?" he seethed, getting off of the couch.

Derek answered. "My sister wanted to go shopping and I dragged Lily along so that I wouldn't have to go alone. I am sorry for the such sort notice sir."

My Father visibly froze when he saw Derek; he never acted like a horrible father when people were over, just when it was us two. "I see. Are you staying over tonight?" he asked tightly.

Derek nodded and I pulled him upstairs to my room. The second that my door was shut and locked, his arms were around me and he pressed his forehead against mine with his eyes closed.

"Are you alright?" I asked him. With his breathing still ragged, he shook his head. "You can't kill him," I stated, knowing what all of this was about.

His eyes still didn't open. "If it weren't for the compulsion you have over me, I would have killed him right then and there. I can't stand that bastard being so close to you. If I hadn't been here, he would have made you do The Drill for the second time today and this time I might have lost you. I will kill him."

"No you won't," I said and his eyes opened in surprise, they were angry. "If you do that, I won't ever talk to you again."

I could see the control break in his eyes. His grip tightened on me. "No, you wo-"

"Yes, I would." And I would, I am just not sure how long that I would be able to last though. I wouldn't let him destroy his life over me.

I turned away from him to grab clothes and then spun on my heel and headed into the bathroom, slamming my door on the way out.

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~
~~~

Lily broke away from me, grabbed her pajamas and went out of her room, slamming her bedroom door as she left.

I flopped down on her head and buried my face in her pillow taking deep breaths. Her scent, the smell of cinnamon and sugar, surrounded me and I was able to calm down considerably.

I didn't want to be mad at Lily, not now, but the man brought out the worst reactions in me. I didn't feel anything, but suddenly, I felt a body pressed against mine. "I'm sorry," she whispered.

"You're sorry? For what? I was the one who was being difficult, not you. You should be mad at me, not the other way around." I made room for her, and then turned to face her. She curled into my chest.

It was quite for a moment before she spoke. "Why didn't you tell me?"

"Tell you what?" I mumbled into her hair.

"That shape shifter can live five hundred years."

I shrugged sleepily. "We can live about five hundred years.

She rolled her eyes. "Yeah, that was so helpful to tell me after I found out."

I smiled. "I didn't really think that it was that important."

"To hell it ain't," she muttered. "Hey Dee? How come Adel and Ethan only look like they are forty and not over a hundred?"

"Our body slows down our aging process after we turn twenty, after that, we age about one year for every ten years. Adel and Ethan look that old probably from all the stress that they are under, lots of stress causes us to age a little bit faster. I don't really understand how it works."

She nodded even though I could tell from her expression that she didn't entirely get it. "So when I am twenty-eight, you'll virtually stop aging?"

"Not really- kind of- I honestly don't know." I was confusing myself just trying to explain.

Then I heard one of her thoughts. Just a whisper. A thought that wasn't meant for me to hear. What are you going to do when I die?

Just the idea of her not existing sent a whirlwind of pain ripping through me. My breathing started to accelerate and was bordering on hyperventilation. She shut my eyes and tried to stop the horrible images from coming into my head.

Lily took my face between my hands and forced me to look at her. "Calm down."

I couldn't, I know that I couldn't. She would be gone one day; I wouldn't be able to hold her, to touch her, to look at her, to kiss her. I only had so much time left with her. I pulled her into my chest and kissed her desperately.

But she didn't kiss back. Lily looked at me in alarm. "Derek, calm down, I am not going anywhere. Breathe, deep breaths. There you go." It sounded like she was talking to a scared animal, which admittedly is what I am right now. My breathing returned to normal and I felt my head clear. "There. Better?"

I took another deep breath. "No. Ca-can we not talk about that again? I don't want to have a heart attack at sixteen. That would really suck."

"Okay." She didn't say anything more and I could feel my conscious slipping away from me.

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

I watched Derek fall asleep while I stroked his face softly. I coughed slightly and the pain in my side flared agonizingly again. When we were with Adel and Ethan, I didn't think about it so I was able to forget about the pain, now I had no distractions. Before I had felt Derek's emotional pain and now I felt my own pain from the torture that my father had put me through this morning. It seemed to me like I was always in pain.

I closed my eyes and I realized that I didn't have to be in pain all the time. If I won the Street Fighter Competition, then my father would let me quit fighting, something that I have wanted to do for six out of my eleven years that I have been fighting. I had to do this, my fighting was killing Derek just as much as it was killing me, and I had just found out
~~~

what the thought of losing me did to him. I didn't even think about imagining what it would do to him if that really happened.

I know what I needed to do to accomplish this, but it involved doing something that I wished that I didn't want to do and lying to the one who I couldn't live without.

My really life sucks sometimes.

{Author's Note: sorry it is such a boring chapter, but I needed a filler and to set the tone for what made Lily's decision to do... something. I hope that I didn't bore you too much. Please comment and vote. :)

-Kaite}

Chapter 10

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 10)

Chapter 10

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

I got up before Derek did and I slipped out of his arms and into the hallway. My father wasn't home, so I was able to get into the bathroom without incident. I stripped off my clothes and slowly unwrapped the wrap around my stomach and gasped. Covering my body, there were both yellowing and black and blue bruises. I was sore and stiff, but was I noticed the most were my bruised ribs. They were defiantly the worst, that and they ached every time that I breathed in.
~~~

Moving as little as I possibly could, I got into the shower and let the cool water run down my battered body; it was the only relief I had felt all morning. I changed into some light jogging pants and a long sleeve shirt, it was hot out, but this was necessary.

Derek was still sleeping when I was done, so I decided I would clean my room seeing how bad that it desperately needed it. I was almost done when I came along my mother's notebook that Derek had found a few days ago. I was on a patch of my bed that wasn't occupied by Derek and opened it to one of the poems that she found. It was 'My Love' by D. H. Lawrence. It was the only poem in the whole book that I knew by heart. I read it aloud.

"'And at last I know my love for you is here;

I can see it all, it is whole like the twilight,

It is large, so large, I could not see it before,

Because of the little lights and flickers and interruptions,

Troubles, anxieties and pains.

You are the call and I am the answer,

You are the wish, and I the fulfillment,

You are the night, and I the day.

What else - it is perfect enough.

It is perfectly complete,

You and I,

What more--?'"

"What was that?" Derek groaned sitting up and rubbing his eyes. "Are you trying to torture me?"

"Hey," I said a little offended, "that's my favorite poem and you think it is torture? "

"Yes." Then my tone finally registered. "Oh, Lil, I am sorry, I-I didn't mean it that way."

I chuckled. "Yeah you did," I said, but I was wondering which way he could have possibly meant it, "but that is just because you lack the sophistication to see- damn, I forgot the rest of my reason for the rest of my complicated speech on why you are an idiot."

"Thanks Lil," he said sarcastically and I grinned. "You're going to pay for that," he murmured pretending to be mad but failing miserably. He wrapped his arms around me and started to pull me towards him.

He grabbed me right on top of my bruised ribs and when he started to pull me into him, it made the pain flare tremendously. I flinched, but otherwise showed no other indication of the unbearable pain that I was in. It surprised me when Derek all of a sudden cried out. "What's wrong?" I asked him through gritted teeth, fighting the urge to scream.

"You," he said horrified. Before I could take that the wrong way, he continued, "It's not my pain, it's yours."

"I'm fin-" I started.

"No you're not," he growled, "that bastard hurt you and I'm-"

He was starting to move around me so that he could get off of the bed and most likely attempt murder, so I

shoved him back into the bed and straddled him. It hurt. I locked his hands over his head.

He struggled beneath my hold, his expression somewhere between pain- my pain- and anger. "You're not going to do anything," I told him. I brought my face closer his and forced him to look into my eyes. "Relax, 'cause you aren't leaving this house with the intent of murder."

He was slowly relaxing. "Are you using compulsion me?" Derek asked me shakily. I blinked. I didn't think that I was, but it was either that, or I had that much of an affect on him, I figured it was the first. Whatever it was, I planned on using it to my advantage.

I brought my face even closer to his. "And what if I am?"

His eyes closed. Don't do it, I heard him thing, now is not the right time, fight it.

Fight what? I asked him mentally.

This, he thought and then lifted his face slightly to bring his lips to mine. My hands lost their hold on his

hands and suddenly he was on top of me. His body was pressed against mine, not enough that it hurt me, but enough so that I couldn't really move. His lips seemed to mold to mine, refusing to let me go in anyway. His arms were underneath me, pulling me into his as my arms wrapped themselves around his neck.

Derek broke away from me gasping. This defiantly isn't the best time for that, he thought, but it was worth it.

"Why not?" I asked referring to the beginning of his thought.

"Because you're hurt- and I feel it so don't deny it- and it feels like I am taking advantage of you."

I kissed him slowly up his neck. "So you're taking advantage of me?"

"Yes."

I ran my lips along his jaw. "Are you sure about this?"

"No," he said and kissed me again.

"I think you should go home now," I told him after he had finished kissing me.

"I don't," he mumbled bring his face back down to mine.

"You have a one track mind," I told him unsteadily, turning my face to the side so he couldn't kiss me. "Go, you can't spend all of your time with me, you have a family too."

"They'll live."

"Dee," I started to scold him.

He sighed, already knowing where this was going. "I'll be back," he promised and I hoped it wouldn't be anytime soon. His eyes narrowed on my face, but after a few minutes of telling him I would be fine and that I wouldn't leave the house, he finally left.

Knowing it was stupid, knowing that I would I would end up in a whole hell of a lot of pain, I changed into shorts and a tank top before headed downstairs to the workout room. I put in one of my workout CDs and started to stretch out. I was right, it hurt like hell.

I prayed that Derek was far enough away that he wouldn't feel it.

I moved the wavemaster to the middle of the floor and decided to do Hundred up, Hundred down. You started with ten moves to the bag, then you took a ten second break, then twenty hits, then a ten second break, then thirty, and so on until you got up to hundred, then you did the same thing starting from a hundred going back down by tens. You got tired after the first twenty moves if you did it right.

Moving hurt and fighting hurt even more, but I had to push myself, I had to train- and lie to Derek- if I ever planned on winning the Street Fighter Competition and stopping fighting for good.

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~

After I left Lily's I went straight to Agency, it was time that I finally found out more about this war. "Moring Heidi," I said to the girl sitting at the desk.

"Good morning Derek. Nice to see you again, you haven't shown up in a long time, I thought you left
~~~

me here with all the old guys alone," she joked and I laughed.

I was the youngest here at sixteen while all of the other second-in-commands were usually over sixty, most over of the leader well over a hundred. Heidi herself was about forty-five, but she looked about twenty. "I would never do that Heidi, that would be just horrible of me," I laughed. She stuck her tongue out at me playfully. "Where's Wei?"

She dug through the papers on her desk. "Um, I think he is still in his office, he wanted to take to you."

"And why didn't you tell me?" I asked her exasperated. Heidi was nice and all, but she was always forgetting things.

She pushed her long sorrel hair out of her brown eyes. "I forgot," she said apologetically.

I sighed. "Just call me next time." She gave me another apologetic smile and I walked past her to Wei's office.

The older Asian man was sitting behind his desk writing on something behind the mound of papers

on his desk. Wei was about three hundred years old but he only looked about forty. "Derek," he said, pushing his glasses back up, but not looking up from his work, "it has been a while, I was starting to consider sending out a search party for my second-in-command."

"Heidi-"

"Forgot? Yeah, I had figured that. Did you hear about the war?"

"Yeah, I heard it from Ethan Ashford. How is Lukas holding up?"

"He is not doing so well, since he lost Amanda. I cannot even begin to imagine what it would be like to lose a mate. The land shifters want immediate action, while the aquatics agree with us on waiting and calculating a plan."

I nodded. "We can't go into this blindly out of rage, we would lose too many."

Wei sighed. "I agree. What has happened to this world? Is it possible for us to not fight with each other for a time?"

I shrugged. "I'm a teenager, I wouldn't know."

He laughed. "I am sorry, how easily I forget, you act so old for your age."

Alexis Willis, the leader of the aquatic shifters, bustled into the room then and we stopped our playful banter to focus on what was truly important, the war between us, the were-people and the vampires.

Chapter 11

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 11)

Chapter 11

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

I groaned and sat up, coughing up my own blood.

"Wow there. You alright, baby?" a rough voice asked from beside me. I felt a large callused hand on my back. "It's okay, baby. Just let it all out. There you go." He rubbed soothing circles as I coughed up more of the crimson liquid.

I took deep breaths, the coughing added to the burning in my throat and the aching in my ribs. "I am fine," I gasped.
~~~

He pushed my black hair behind my ear, the only thing that made me look like him. His brown eyes were worried, they tightened against some emotion. "No, you're not." Before I could protest, he reached behind him and then thrust a glass of water into my hand. "Drink," he ordered.

I took the clear liquid and downed it in seconds. I sputtered and the coppery taste of blood filled my mouth again. A tissue suddenly appeared in front of my face. "Thanks," I murmured my voice raw.

This was the first time that I have ever seen him act this way when we were alone, as if I wasn't just something he could take his stress out on.

His tired face dropped into his hands and I had to strain my ears to hear what he said. "First I lose Ann, and then I come home to find you unconscious in the basement with your hands bleeding and your breaths shallow. I thought you were dead and it nearly killed me. Lily Ann May, what the hell were you thinking?"

This got me angry, very angry. "Well Father," I spat the word, "sorry that I worried you. It never occurred

to me that you cared considering I wouldn't be in this bad of shape if it wasn't for your damned training sessions! If you hadn't worked me so hard and hit me so hard, then I wouldn't be constantly in pain!" I raged. I ignoring the unbearable pain that I was in, that I was still dressed in my sweaty, bloodied work out clothes, I jerked out of bed and hobbled down the stairs.

"Where do you think that you are going?" my father yelled behind me.

I didn't answer. I heard a few more yelled swear words before I slammed the front door behind me. It was cooler, the sun was just setting, but I wouldn't go back inside. This was the first time that he had ever shown me that he cared. It felt fake. That fake hurt, fake worry was worse than how he normally treated me.

I needed to cool down, but I didn't have the strength to walk over to Derek's house. I was barely able to drag my feet to the park that was halfway in between our houses. I sat against a tree and did something that I hadn't done in a long time. I cried.

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~

"So it's agreed?" Wei asked Alexis, Michael, and I. "We are going to support Lukas's decision on entering the war between the Weres and the Vamps before we lose more of our own?"

The leader of the aquatic shifters looked at her second-in-command. Michael nodded and she ran a hand down her face. Alexis normally looked about forty-five years old, but right now, you could really see some of her three hundred and thirty years that she had lived through there. "Sure," she sighed.

They turned to look at me. "I don't like it, but yeah, we have no other choice."

The hundred year old, Michael, was the one to break the uncomfortable silence that followed that. "What should our first move be? We had discussed so many that I forgot what we decided."

Wei opened his weary eyes to look at him. "We will wait either until we think that they are planning to attack us or until the land shifters make their moves and we will be there back up. We will have the
~~~

willing fighters go first, like we have planned, and then if we need more, we will have to send the unwilling and endeared shifters in. It is the only way."

"I will be in the front line when this happens, I can only imagine what it feels like to lose your endeared," Michael said total conviction in his tone. He looked at me hopefully, begging with my eyes to join him in the bloodshed.

Just the idea turned my stomach. "I am endeared," I told him the first time, "I don't want to put her in any unnecessary pain before the time comes." Wei, Alexis, and I knew the limitation of distance on feeling your endeared one's pain, but Michael didn't.

His eyes widened. "You're what? For how long?" And this is why I didn't tell him. Michael was defiantly a player, while some part of him wanted to find his endeared, the other part of him wanted to remain a bachelor for the rest of his long life. The idea of being attracted to one woman and one woman alone was almost an impossible idea for him.

"I have been endeared for as long as I could remember." Wei had known this and Alexis was one of those girls who could spot a man in love a mile away, but Michael was utterly clueless to these types of things. He probably wouldn't even notice if Lily was in the same room as me and then it would have been obvious to anything that is living.

"That explains why you never hooked up with any of the girls that were flirting with you at the club." That and they were sluts. "Why didn't you tell me?"

I shrugged. "You never asked." Then I returned to business, thinking about Lily made me anxious to see her again. "Is that all for today?" I asked the two leaders.

Alexis nodded. "I will call you if anything else comes up," Wei told me and I walked out of the office.

"How did it go?" Heidi asked me the second that I stepped into the lobby.

"Depressing to say the least, but we do know what we are going to do. It didn't even take us a week this time." Usually decisions that affected the true shifter

community took days to come to; the six hours that we took today seemed like nothing.

She nodded. "You better come back soon," she warned me as I started to walk away.

"Maybe," I called back over my shoulder and then smirked as I hear curses before the glass door shut between us.

The cool dusk was just setting in and the crisp air woke me up. I hadn't taken my car here because it was such a distance home, so I just started to walk. I could have shifted, but it was dangerous to shift in the city without the cover of a secure building. "Mythical creatures" had hidden their mass amounts from the fearful, impulsive humans for thousands of years; they wouldn't tolerate anyone who changed that now.

I thought about the war, as a kid I had wanted to go into war, to be a hero, but now I knew I couldn't just kill someone who thought they were doing the right thing. If they were a killer, I could, but not an- I searched for the word to describe Weres and Vamps- almost innocent.

I had only taken a few steps before a fire flared up inside of my body, taking me to the ground with the intensity of it. I grunted in pain and wrapped my arms around my ribs, trying to concentrate around the pain.

The door flew open behind me and Heidi ran out. "Are you okay?" she asked panicked.

"No," I gritted out. What the hell was happening?

"Here, I'll take you home." She tried to help me up, but I ignored her and got to my feet and headed with her to her car without her help. "Where do you live?"

"About a half mile from here," I said and then some things that Ethan had said yesterday flashed through my mind.

...to feel their pain, you must be fairly close.... within a half mile... if they are killed... it will be more like a gut wrenching pain...

Lily.

"Shit!" I yelled.

"What-?" Heidi started to ask, but I had already shifted into my raven form and was long gone.

~~~Lily's P.O.V ~~~

I didn't cry, ever, but sometimes, it was something that you just couldn't help. Every sob that tore from me hurt my ribs, yet I still didn't seem able to stop. It seemed like I had been here crying for hours, but the sun had been just setting when I left and now it was just starting to get dark so I couldn't have been here more than a few minutes.

I suddenly felt something land on my shoulder and I screamed for a half a second in surprise. My head turned to come face to face with Derek's gray eyes, flashing with anger. I shooed him off.

"Leave me alone," I said in a broken voice.

No. The reply was immediate and in my head. I blinked in surprise; that was defiantly new. Who did this?

"No one did this," I protested. "It was my fault."
~~~

His eyes flashed again and he glared at me. Who did this? He repeated.

"I did this. It was all my fault, I was stupid, now let it go and leave me alone."

Derek squawked in anger and then took off into the tree, leaving behind a single raven's feather. "Leave you my ass," I heard him mumble as he made his way back through the trees, now in his human form.

"Yeah, that's what I'll tan if you don't go," I shot right back.

Derek sat down right next to me in the dirt and pulled me into him. "What happened?" he snarled.

"Calm down. Nothing happened," I lied. There was no way in hell that I was going to tell him that I willingly trained in my condition.

"You're li-"

"Don't," I cut him off, my voice on the breaking point of those damned tears.

He buried his face in my hair but he was still tense. "I'm sorry," he apologized and it was quiet for a

while. "Do you want me to distract you?" he asked and I nodded. "Well, uh, Heidi wants to meet up with you again, remember her? She needs someone to go shopping with her and she wanted me to ask you." I nodded again. "Hmmm, what else... oh, Alexis, the leader of the water shifters, wants to meet you, she has been badgering me for weeks at the chance to meet you."

He seemed to be at a loss for topics, so I decided to help him out even though my voice was shaky and barely understandable even to me. "Why did you even go the agency today?"

"To talk about the war-" he broke off, seeming like he said something that he didn't mean to say, "shit!"

War?! Wait, what?!

{Author's Note: sorry that it took so long, I had to do a demo for karate and I had only a week to practice for it and then spent the whole Saturday demo-ing and teaching 6 year olds with hemophelia karate. Hectic to say the least. Lol, well please comment and vote :D

-Katie}

Chapter 12

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 12)

Chapter 12

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

"What are you talking about?" I demanded. "What war?" I tried to twist around to see his face, but it was still buried in my hair and his arms tightened around me so that I couldn't move but he didn't hurt my battered body.

"It's nothing," he said, his voice cool and unemotional, "you wanted me to distract you and that is what I did."
~~~

I gritted my teeth; there was nothing that pissed me off more than Derek acting so distant like he always did around others or when he was lying to me, and he was doing both right now. "What war?" I ground out.

"America is almost always involved in some war-" he began, completely trying to distract me.

"Tell me what is going on or I am leaving right now and you know damn well that you couldn't stop me," I interrupted and meant it. His arms tightened around me as if to show that that he intended to put up a fight if it resulted in that, but if he did, I could sit get out even without using martial arts, I could hit countless pressure points or I could just wait until he fell asleep. "Derek!"

He sighed and hair flew about around my face. "I will tell you on one condition, you stay with us for a while. I don't trust you alone anymore and I know my family wouldn't let anything happen to you." Or let you do stupid to yourself. The words hung unspoken between us, but it was obvious that is what he meant.

I considered this despite the unsaid insult. I couldn't hide from my father forever though, until I was eighteen, I couldn't be truly free of him. I still had four more years until then and he knew where I would be so there was no way that he would leave me be. The only way I could ever live with him if he still made me fight and the only way that I could so that was to win that fighting completion. Ever since he gave me that option, it had never been far from my mind, I wanted it so badly that it hurt.

I knew that I had to do this weather Derek wanted me to or not. "Okay," I agreed, knowing that I would have to lie and sneak around to get what I needed done.

Derek shifted me off of him and stood up before pulling me up next to him. We walked silently back to his house, he kept his hand firmly in mine as if he expected me to suddenly bolt.

I saw his house and I was suddenly extremely self-conscious in my shorts and tank top knowing that all of the bruises that I had- both self-inflicted and from my father- were strikingly obvious.

I froze and, causing Derek to stop too. "You can't let them see me, Dee," I pleated, "I need to change first."

He thought for a moment. "Stay behind me and then when we are inside, run up the stairs as fast as you can when I give you the signal. Got it?"

"Wait what is the signal?"

"Good question," he said and then opened up the front door with me in tow.

"Where have you be-?!"

"Can Lil sleepover, Mom?" he interrupted her.

"Sure," she said automatically, and then blinked having lost her train of thought.

"Thanks Mrs. E," I said and then ran up the stairs and into Derek's room. I took the quickest shower that I could and changed into long pajama bottoms and one of his long-sleeve shirts before heading back downstairs.

His parents were just finishing a lecture on leaving without leaving a note or telling anyone besides an eight year old girl who acted like she was six. I sat

down on the arm of the couch the he was sitting on. Derek looked at me and groaned. "Aw, Lil, you're getting my shirt wet with your hair."

I rolled my eyes. "You are more of a girl than I am sometimes."

He started to make a sound of protest, but his mother cut him off before he could comment. "What happened to you?"

I shrugged, it hurt. "I tripped down the stairs, I'm fine." I hadn't, but it would explain most of the injuries.

Her eyes narrowed and she stood up and lifted my chin to examine my face. This surprised me more than anything that she could have done. I didn't have mom, so this was almost unnerving for me. I couldn't hide behind my short black hair anymore, she would clearly see my split lip and I figured that I looked pale and drawn.

She then pushed my sleeves back and saw the marks on my arms. "I want you to stay here for a while so that I can... make sure that you aren't too badly hurt,"

she said, her face expressionless but her voice was seething.

"I'll make sure that she does," Derek said, pleased that he had gotten his way with his mom backing him up.

Her gazed zeroed back onto him as she sat back down next to her husband. "Now tell us why you were gone, the whole truth, not just parts of it."

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~

I sighed. Well, I knew that I would have to do this sometime. I reached over and wound my arm around Lily's waist so that I could gently pull her onto my lap. I knew I was being a coward, but I wanted to hide my expressions from my parents so then I would be able to lie easier.

"A shape shifter was killed and they called a meeting at the Agency to discuss security measures and a way to cover our tracks because along with a shifter's body being different from a normal human's, she was also killed supernaturally.
~~~

"Her vampire had accidentally drained her and naturally we had to consider our allegiance with the Vamps. The meeting was urgent and uncalled for, so I had to get there right away and wasn't able to leave a note," I lied. It wasn't a complete lie, that had happened, months ago, but it had happened none the less. Telling them about the truth was unfeasible because that would cause more of a mess than everything was right now.

"You still should have told us," my mom scolded me.

I subtly nudged Lily, and getting the message, she pretended to yawn. "Well it's late, we'll talk tomorrow." I grabbed Lily's hand and dragged her up the stairs behind me. I locked door and fell back against it, relieved that my lie worked.

Lily stood in front in front of me with her hands on her hips. "I think it's time for the truth."

I sighed again and walked over to my bed, threading my hands behind my head as I laid back. "It's a long story," I warned her.

"We have all night," she reminded me before turning off my light so my parents thought that we were asleep and coming to curl up into my side on the bed. "Now, what war?"

God, I was really getting sick of that question. I grunted but I knew that I couldn't avoid this much longer. "Were-people- remember like were-wolves, were-foxes, were-bears...- they naturally hate vampires and the two races are almost always in some sort of fight, if they meet on the street, it will most likely end in death even at the risk of exposure."

"A few days ago-almost a week now- something happened that spiraled into a huge argument that was bound to happen for years. They two declared war on each other and when a true shifter heard about it, she tried to get both their kings to sign a treaty. She ended up getting killed and then attacked the Agency.

"The shifter that was killed was a very important figure for true shifters, and they demanded that actions were made. Now, somehow, the true shifters

are involved in a war between vampires and were-people and it doesn't seem to have a very good outcome," I finished and finally looked over at Lily and saw that she had frozen beside and her face didn't have a drop of blood in it.

"But you'll be massacred," she chocked out.

"No, we won't. Vamps are our only threat and they aren't as unstoppable as they say in all of those books," I said a little miffed. But even with all of my protests, she still looked like she was about to pass out. "Don't worry, we will be fine." I hope. "Now go to sleep, Lily, we can do talk more in the morning."

I prayed that she would agree, because not only did she look pale, but she was also visibly exhausted. I also knew that I would not have any clue what to do if she started to cry or freak out; I hoped that I wouldn't have deal with either of them tomorrow.

I rolled onto my side and held her stiff form in my arms so that she could relax. We sat in silence for what seemed like hours until Lily finally went slack in sleep. I would have to deal with her tomorrow. Oh, joy, I thought sarcastically.

Chapter 13

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 13)

Chapter 13

~~~Derek's P.O.V. ~~~

I yawned and stretched. My arms automatically sought for Lily, but I only came up with empty air. "What the hell," I muttered and sat up, trying to find my bearings. I heard the shower going on from my open door and it took me a few seconds to realize that was where she was.

Another fifteen minutes, and she was walking back into the room without even looking at me. "Lil?" No answer. "Lil?" I asked a bit louder... still no answer. "Lily? Lily Ann May?" She continued to dig through
~~~

the part of my closet that had her clothes to look for a sweatshirt, before yanking one out and heading towards the door. I got off of the bed, grabbed her arm, and jerked her to a stop. A second later, she was out of my grip and opening up the door. "Lily?!" I called again.

"Hey, Scar," she said to Scarlett as she opened up her door and Lily picked her up into her arms.

"Lily, answer me," I said desperately following her. I couldn't figure out why she was mad at me.

"What did Dee do?" Scarlett asked, amused because she always said that one day I would do something to get Lily mad that she wouldn't forgive me for right away.

"He was keeping secrets from me when he knows just how much I hate them."

"What were they about?"

"Just some things. I think he thought he was protecting me by not telling me, but he is an idiot and should have told me."

Well, at least she was talking to me even though she was looking at Scarlett. "He really needs to know that us girls can take care of ourselves he is too showvic."

"You mean chauvinistic?"

"Yeah! That's it. It was in one of my books," she said proudly. Lil smiled down at her and I felt my heart kick up a beat.

"Hey, Scarlett, can you go ask Mom if she could make us some eggs Benedict that she said that she would make us this week?"

"Sure," she wriggled out of Lily's embrace and then bounded down the stairs.

When she was out of hearing rang, I turned to Lily. "I know that this is a girl's break-up line, but we need to talk."

She smiled for a second before she realized what she was doing and then with an effort wiped it off of her face. She then whirled on her heal and marched past me into my room. Well, this would be interesting, I thought.

~~~Lily's P.O.V. ~~~

"You're ignoring me because I didn't tell you about a war that I had found out just a few days ago before yesterday?" Derek asked in disbelief as he shut his door and leaned against it.

I sat down on the bed. "I am mad because you didn't plan on telling me, you planed on lying to me. I think that I have the right to know that." With a jolt, I realized how hypocritical I was being, I demanded that he didn't lie to me under any circumstance, but here I was, ready to lie to him about my fighting without even a second thought.

He sighed. "Okay, I guess that you are right." The way that he said that, it was obvious that he didn't think so, but he was trying not to start a fight and because I was going to do the same thing, I let it go. "Are we good?"

I smiled up at him. "Yeah."

"So no more secrets between us?"

My heart stopped and I had to work to keep my expression cheerful. "Mhm."
~~~

"You are kidding me, right?"

Derek smiled at me. "Nope," he said cheerfully. "I told you that Heidi wanted to see you again and that Alexis was... how did she describe it... oh, dying to meet you."

"But I am not a shape shifter! Am I supposed to even know about them? They won't let me into their most important building!"

He looked sideways at me, trying to hide is grin. "You can tell your family and your Endeared everything about the supernatural and only someone's Endeared to the Agency. You are good on both accounts, so just breath, plus, I am not letting you out of a thirty yard radius, so you will just have to make due with spending some time with Heidi."

I glared at him. "I am not six, I don't need a babysitter."

"I know that. But some days, especially this past week, you sure as hell do need someone watching you," he said and opened the front door to the Agency for me.

"Derek-"

"Lily!" Heidi cut me off by catching me in a crushing hug.

"Hey...Heidi," I gasped out. "I am glad to see you, but you are crushing me."

"Oh, sorry. I am just excited. I haven't seen you in such a long time."

"I've been a little busy, that and my father doesn't let me go out much."

Heidi glared at something over my head. "Oh, yeah," she said in a clipped voice, "I've heard about him, the bastard."

I blushed and hit Derek on the arm. "Hey! What was that for?!"

"For telling people about my personal life without my permission."

She grinned, and shot an amused glance at Derek. "I am glad to say that I have found someone who can resist your charm."

He smirked. "No, she can't."

"Yes, she can," I interrupted, purposely in third person.

Heidi came over by me and linked arms so she could drag me away from Derek and behind her desk. "Go on now Pretty Boy, give us some girl time."

Derek ignored the comment about his looks and turned to look at me and then back at her. "But-"

"They'll be fine, Derek," a new clear voice cut him off.

My head whipped around and I came face-to-face with my violet eyes. "But-" Derek started again.

"Hello, I'm Alexis Ann Willis," the woman with the violet eyes stated, completely ignoring him. Alexis was just about my height and had light brown hair.

"Lily Ann May." I figured I should add my middle name because that was what she did and also, some people did call me Lily Ann.

Her eyes widened. "May?" she chocked out.

"Uh, yeah."

"Oh, my," she gasped.

"'Oh my' is right," Heidi said. "You two could be sisters."

"Yeah, you look almost exactly the same except for the hair."

"Sister? Yeah, something like that," Alexis agreed faintly.

Derek sighed after a short silence. "Stay out of trouble," he said and kissed me on the cheek.

"Okay, let me make this clear, I don't looking for trouble, it finds me, I also have yet to see someone beat me in a real fight, so I am safe there, and lastly, I brought my mom's book so I have something to read."

Alexis took a step closer. "May I see that?"

"Sure." I took off my small backpack and gingerly handed her the notebook and her eyes widened.

"I still don't know why you keep that," Derek said and shook his head at me.

"Hey, like I said before. She has do be better than my father and if I were her, I would have left too."

"You are so weird," he mumbled and then started to head down a hall. "Come on, Alexis, we are already late, we shouldn't make it worse on ourselves."

Alexis shook her head, as if gathering herself before slowly, reluctantly handing the book back to me. "Well, nice meeting you, Lily." The smile she gave me was both blinding and heart-breaking.

"That was weird," Heidi commented after they were both gone. "I have never seen Alexis act like that, even though you two did look a lot alike."

"Yeah," I agreed. Something about that meeting was weird; actually, the whole thing was weird, down to her reactions to our similar looks. Unable to find any reasons, I shrugged it off and sat sown behind Heidi's desk in on an extra chair. "So what are we doing today?"

She looked over at me and smirked. "Girl talk."

I groaned. At least I had a book.

{Author's Note: Not my favorite chapter for this book, but it was needed. I have two questions: One, was it too confusing ('cause to other people that me, it

might seem that way), and two: any predictions? Well, please comment and vote. Thanks.

-Katie}

Chapter 14

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 14)

Chapter 14

Lily:

This was an incredibly stupid thing to ask and I knew it... but I still couldn't stop myself from asking it. "Father, what was my mother's madden name?"

Instead of the anger that I expected, his eyes softened. "Ann's madden name was Willis. Have I ever really told you about her or do you remember her?"

I shook my head. I was only about two when she left. I moved forward slowly and sat across from him on a

chair. I had never in my life seen my father have such a look of tenderness on his face, it was... disarming.

"I loved her," he said reminiscently. "She was the most beautiful woman that I had ever seen. She had hair the color of honey and the most brilliant violet eyes." He looked over at me. "You got your eyes from her, you look so much like her, only you have my hair."

"Why-" I stopped, afraid the question would bring on one of his bouts of rage.

"Why did she leave?" he prompted and I nodded. "So was very sick after you were born, she had to go to a hospital across the country. She ended up dying from it."

I gasped. "But you told me that she had left."

He shrugged. "That is how I viewed it. It's-it's still hard to talk about it. Now, don't you have training to do?"

I was still shocked at the fact that my father had feelings like a normal human beings that I went to the basement to train without comment.

Jab, punch, duck, punch, jump, punch, uppercut, side kick. One. Jab, punch, duck, punch, jump, punch, uppercut, side kick. Two.

I started the Drill, naturally, without thinking about it. My father said that my mother had died, but he never said that he had seen her body... and then Alexis looked exactly like he described her...

I gasped at the strength of my headache but didn't pause in my movements. Alexis was- oh my god! I couldn't stop, I knew that if I did, my father would ask me why I wasn't working and I couldn't tell him that his wife wasn't really dead...

I couldn't tell him. I couldn't let her get messed up with my father again. She was smart to have faked her death- if that is really what happened- to get away from this... this monster!

Jab, punch, duck, punch, jump, punch, uppercut, side kick. Three. Jab, punch, duck, punch, jump, punch, uppercut, side kick. Four.

I had to push the thoughts out of my head, I couldn't have a headache and do The Drill at the same time, if

I just concentrated on The Drill then I could force myself to forget about my headache.

Derek looked at me like I grew an extra head. "What?"

I sighed and repeated myself for the third time, but skipping how I found out this time. "Alexis is my mom."

"But your mom left you and your dad," he said dumbly.

I shook my head. "That is what I thought, but my father said that she had gotten sick and she died. But that isn't what really happened, she must have faked her death and then changed her name. My father said that her name- her maiden name- was Ann Willis. Alexis Willis. She looks exactly like me, you and Heidi even thought so! Who else could it be?"

At first he just looked skeptic, but his disbelief slowly changed to incredulousness. "Her reaction to your name.... Oh my god," he sat down heavily on his bed.

I nodded. "Yeah, not you know that I'm not crazy."

He shook his head, still more shocked then anything. "I never thought that," he mumbled distractedly. "So are you going to tell her that you know?"

I nodded. "I have to find out why she left... and I have to know why she didn't take me with her."

He opened his arms for me and I sat next to him. "But what if it not a good answer?" he said into my hair.

I pressed closer to him, hoping that would drive the desolate emotions that wanted to overcome me. "I still have to know. What would you do if you were me?"

"Well, if I were you, I would kiss me."

I laughed and gave him a quick peck on the mouth. "There, then what?"

"Hmmm, well besides giving me a better kiss... I think I would do the same thing. When do you want to do it?"

I took a deep breath. "Since it is almost noon... what about now?"

He gave me a considering look. "Are you sure you can handle it?"

I nodded. "I think I can... as long as you stay with me."

"I will," he promised. "Come on, I think I can remember where she lives, we had a meeting there one day. She lives out in Arlington."

About a half an hour later, I was as close to a nervous wreck as I had even been in my life. I was shaking, but other than that, there was no way to see that there was anything wrong without looking into my eyes.

"Does-does she have a family?" I stuttered, if she did, then there would no way that I would be able to do this.

He shook his head. "If she does, she's never mentioned it and from what I remember, it only looked like her living in that house." He parked the car outside of a small house. "I think this is it."

I took a deep breath and slowly got out of the car. Maybe this wasn't such a good idea, maybe I should

just leave... Derek came and took my hand and suddenly, I felt stronger. Together we walked to the door and I ran the doorbell.

"Coming!" a muffled female voice yelled from inside. A few seconds later, the door flew open. "Oh, Derek, Lily. What are you two doing here?" a flustered Alexis asked.

I took another deep breath, my stomach in knots. "We would like to talk to you, if that's alright."

She nodded. "Sure, I was just making lunch. Nothing's wrong is it?"

I shook my head. "Not really."

She led us back inside and to a table. "So what is it that you want to talk about?"

I sat down, feeling a bit dizzy from the nerves, Derek watched me in concern. "Well, there's something that I want to talk to you about, but I am not sure if it is true or not. Is-is Alexis your real name?" I couldn't ask her my real question, but that was close.

She froze in the middle of cooking. "What- what do you mean?"

"Alexis Willis, is that your real name?"

She sighed, turning off the stove and sitting in the remaining chair. "You know, don't you? How do you know?"

I felt a little confidence building. "How... how you look like me and- and how you reacted when I first saw you."

She looked at me with hell in her eyes. "How else could I react when I just stumbled upon the daughter that I was forbidden to ever see again?"

My mouth fell open and I felt Derek's surprise through our link. "I- what?"

Her head fell into her hands. "After- after I married your father and had you, everything went wrong. I loved him so much, he wasn't my endeared, but I still loved him... You were about two years old when I found out, your father, my husband, was a Hunter. They hunt Shifters, Vampires, Weres, everything. I never told him what I was, and then when I found

that out, I couldn't. I knew he loved me, but I didn't know if that was enough to get him to go against everything that he believed in.

"I told the others at the Agency... and they said that I had to fake my death, leave everything behind, even my daughter... or kill the man I loved. I cried for days on end, but finally, I did what I had to do. I pretended to be sick, they moved me to a save house and then told your father that I had been killed."

I gasped. "That- that's horrible."

She looked up. "I know you have every right to hate me, but please, I must know. How are you? Your father? I need to know."

"I don't hate you," I mumbled. I didn't know what to tell her about my father, but she deserved to know the truth. "I am fine. As you know, Derek's endeared to me. We've been friends basically all of our lives so it's nice. And-" my voice broke, but I cleared my voice and continued "-Father has... lost it since you 'died'. He- he forced me to learn martial arts ever since you left and..." I trailed off, unable to finish.

"He works her practically to death and beats her," Derek growled.

She looked horrified. "Please tell me that this is some kind of sick joke. Brandon would never hurt you."

I looked away, torn up by what I knew she must be going through. "We're not joking, you can check her ribs if you really need proof though."

Her eyes began to tear up.

"He's not all that bad," I told her quickly. "He doesn't really abuse me, he is just tough when it comes to fighting, that's all. Honestly, I am fine." Don't fight me on this, I mentally said to Derek, I felt his initial protest, but he did as I asked.

Tears fell down Alexis's checks. "God, if I would have know," she said in a raw tone. She stood up and enveloped me in a hug. I held her back just as tightly as she held me, ignoring the now slight pain in my ribs. I never had a parent- that was my own- care this much about me before. I needed this just as much as she seemed to.

"Please, stay with me. Don't go back to him," she told me. "He is training you to be a Hunter. I can't lose another of my family. Please."

I leaned back to look into her face. "I can't do that, he would come after me. But- but I stay with Derek as much as I am able, he won't do anything when someone else is there, only when it is just us."

"I can't lose you, not again," she told me. "Just be careful. Stay with him." She took a deep breath and seemed to collect herself. "I want to see you again. I'll keep contact through Derek, but whenever he goes to a meeting at the Agency, come with when you can." She smiled painfully. "Maybe one day soon, you can come live with me. I know that I am forbidden to see you, but know that I have, I just can't seem to stop myself. You just look so much like me when I was your age, it's amazing."

I gave her a watery smile back. "I will try to see you as much as possible, but we have to get back."

"Are you sure that you can't stay longer?"

"My father... well, if I don't get back when he asks me to, it won't be good."

She looked furious. "How could he! He was such a kind person," she broke off in a sob, but controlled it. "I just can't believe that I am allowing you to go back to him."

"I can handle him," I said just as much to her as to Derek. "I am stronger than I look."

She gave me a final long hug. "Be careful, Lily, my beautiful daughter."

"Bye... Mom."

As we left, the tears streaming down her face is something that would haunt me forever. I knew without a doubt from that meeting that she loved me, that she never wanted to leave in the first place and that she had no clue what was happening to me.

It was also in that moment that I knew that I had to win that street fighter competition. It was the only way to get my father to let me stop fighting... then maybe, just maybe then he wouldn't keep such a

short leash on me and I would be able to get away from him.

{Author's Note: Sorry that took so incredible long, but i have just the worst writer's block on this story and finally I just forced my way through it. I don't really like this chapter that much, but I figure that it is better than nothing.

-Katie}

Chapter 15

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 15)

Chapter 15

Lily:

“Is it possible to be half shifter?”

Derek looked up from the file that he’d been studying and gave me a confused look. “Yeah, but a lot of the babies die, so they’re aren’t too many half human shifters, most have parents that have the gene though not all of them can shift. Why the question though?”

I sat up on his bed. “Alexis- my mom- is a shifter…” I trailed off.

His mouth fell open. “Holy sh-crap.”

“You can swear around me,” I told him in amusement.

“But I don’t like to. You- you just might be a shifter. Holy crap.”

I rolled my eyes. “You sound like that’s an entirely new idea. You shift practically every day.”

“Yeah, but- but you-” he dropped the file he’d been going over on his desk and rubbed his temples. “Lil, you’re normal, that’s just how I see you, the idea that you could be like me, well that *is* an entirely new idea.”

I sighed. “You just might have to get over it since I might actually be a shifter.” A thought dawned on me and I walked over and sat on the edge of Derek’s desk. “So, let’s say, an aquatic shifter can sense another aquatic shifter, right?” When he nodded, I continued. “My- Alexis is an aquatic shifter?” Another nod. I smiled. “Good.” I slipped my phone out of my pocket and hit the speed dial. “Hey, Heidi,”

I said after she answered, “what are you doing today?”

She seemed confused. “Nothing much, why?”

“Can you meet Derek and I at the park in a few minutes?”

“Yeah, sure.”

When I hung up, Derek was looking at me funny. “What was that all about?”

“Heidi is an aquatic shifter… Alexis is an aquatic shifter, so I figure that I would be one too, right?”

His eyes went blank with shock. “That’s brilliant.”

I smirked. “Why thank you, now, let’s go.” I grabbed his hand and nearly dragged him down to his car. “Are you good to drive or am I going to have to drive today?”

He gave me a look. “You don’t have your temps yet.”

I shrugged. “So? I’ve driven before? So what if it wasn’t exactly legal.”

He glowered at me. “Well you shouldn’t have and you aren’t going to now, plus, I don’t want to die today.” I stuck my tongue out at him and slid into his car. “So why the park?” he asked after a few moments, pulling out onto the street.

I shrugged. “I didn’t want to do it at your house and we sure as hell couldn’t do it at my house because of my father, so it just seemed like the place to go. Anyway, you said that it hurts, so I figured that if we go deep enough in the woods and I actually am one, no one would hear me scream.”

He flinched at the implication of me in pain. “Who said that you were going to try to shift, you just said we were going to find out!”

I rolled my eyes. I really should have expected him to freak out like this. “Dee, we don’t even know if I am one yet so why don’t we start yelling after we find out?”

He glowered again and grunted but didn’t say anything.

We were at the park a minute later and practically the second that I was out of the car, Heidi attacked me. I only had a seconds warning before the wind was knocked out of me and pain seared my ribs. I gasped and broke away from her bone-crushing hug, holding my mid-section.

“I’m sorry, Lily. I’m just so happy about you and Alexis.”

I just stared at her. We hadn’t told anyone, so how did she know.

Heidi rolled her eyes. “Oh, come on, you too, Derek. It’s literally my job to know things, plus, I am not always as stupid as I seem.” When neither of us answered, she scoffed. “I know that everyone thinks that I’m… ditsy, but that’s because I forget a lot, not that I’m not capable.” She turned back to me. “So, why am I here today?”

Derek:

“So can you tell if I’m one?” Lily asked Heidi after she’d explained everything.

Heidi titled her head to the side, considering. “Well it’s usually very hard to tell if they haven’t shifted yet, and added to the fact that you are only a half-blood that makes it even harder to tell. I *think* I can feel the animal within you, but I’m not entirely sure, you’d have to shift for me to be sure.”

“Well that’s helpful,” I muttered and Heidi glared at me. “Can’t we just say that she is a shifter and leave?” I knew that neither of them would go with that plan, but I didn’t want Lily to try and shift. It would hurt her, and I couldn’t handle her being hurt as much as I knew it would.

They both ignored me. “Feel the animal, what do you mean?”

“Well,” Heidi began but struggled since it wasn’t an easy thing to explain. “Shifters can hear their animals, it’s like another voice talking in their head, their animal instinct. Not all shifters have that, Derek, as far as I know, doesn’t, but most of them do. It’s just a voice in your head that has feeling and thoughts that kind of guides you at times. Before you shift, it’s quiet, but afterwards, it kind of talks to you

like a friend that only you can hear, well you and your endeared."

I snorted. That, out of everything I knew, just sounded weird to me, to have this voice in your head. I was glad for once that I was different. "Yeah, it's the only time that you hear a voice in your head and you're *not* crazy."

"Okay, so how would I shift, I mean if I even can?" Lily asked anxiously, completely ignoring me again.

Heidi thought about that for a few moments. "Well since I am an aquatic shifter and I have a higher rank than you if you are one too, I could force you to shift."

Lily winced. "That sounds painful."

"It would be no more painful than shifting for the first time."

She went white at the mention of pain, but Lily took a deep breath and seemed to gather herself. "Alright, let's do this." She looked over at me. *I can handle it, Dee.*

Are you sure? I sent back to her, careful to guard my emotions from her.

She nodded, then turned back to Heidi. “It’s now or never.”

Lily swore under her breath as she waded into the creek that Heidi had led us to. “It’s freezing!”

I chuckled. “That’s why I like being an air shifter, no cold water for me.”

“If you can shift,” Heidi told her after sticking her tongue out at me, “then you won’t ever feel cold in water again, no matter what the temperature is.”

“Sweet. So how do we do this?”

“Well, I’ll shift first, and then I want you just to blank your mind of everything and relax and I should be able to plant the suggestion in your mind to shift if you are a shifter. Oh, and just a warning,” Heidi added, “I shift into an alligator.” Even as she was giving the warning, the air around her began to distort and Heidi shifted into a deadly-looking alligator.

Lily gave a surprised shriek and scrambled out of the water to hide behind me. I chuckled again. “It’s fine, Lil, she’s in complete control of herself, trust me. Even if she wasn’t, I wouldn’t let her hurt you.”

It took a little while longer before I could convince Lily to calm down and get back into the water, but she stood right in front of Heidi. “Okay, clear my mind and relax, clear my mind and relax,” Lily chanted over and over to herself.

Nothing was happening. Just as I was about to tell her that it wasn’t working, the air around her distorted. I swore.

Chapter 16

Fight For Your Right (Chap. 16)

Author's Note: Sorry that it's so short and that not much happens. I really couldn't think on what to write for this chapter so I just decided to end it. The act starts to build up next chapter so that one will be much more interesting. -Kate

Chapter 16

Lily:

It hurt. It was the most pain that I'd ever been in and I'd been in a lot of pain in my life. Every bone felt like it was being broken then bent, then a searing fire hit

them and then the process started all over again. I tried to scream but I didn't think that I had a larynx anymore. I felt my body shrink and my abdomen becoming narrower.

As suddenly as it started, the pain stopped. I was aware that I was now lying in the creek rather than standing in it. As the pain slowly faded, I my mind was able to start registering other things.

Lily, Lily! Are you alright? Derek's voice was frantic in my mind.

I groaned, or at least I tried to but it didn't work. *I- I think so. I ache all over though. That wasn't fun.*

There was a strained laugh of relief and then I heard Derek repeat what I said out loud for Heidi.

Nice job, Lily, I heard Heidi's voice in my head and I jumped in surprise. *The first time's always the worst, it gets better from here as long as you don't fight it.*

That's what they all say, I thought to myself. Derek must have heard it since he started to laugh so hard that he couldn't breathe. *Oh shut up and get out of my head.*

You're my endeared, I can't *get out of you head nor would I want to. Oh, you can hear the thoughts that Heidi sends to you while you both are in this form but you won't be able to answer until we train you, I'll translate.*

You're mean. I hate you.

No, you don't, you so love me.

I rolled my eyes. I tried to push myself out of the water when I realized that I didn't have hands anymore. I started to panic.

You don't have hands, Heidi said wryly.

What do you mean I don't have hands? How can I not have hands?

Because you're not human anymore, Derek said reassuringly. He slowly walked forward and crouched down on the bank of the creek. He looked huge.

I tried to look down at myself but my head wouldn't turn that far. *Wha-what* am *I?*

I think you're a bottle-nosed dolphin but I'm not sure, I don't really know all of the kinds.

What?! Say that again.

You're a dolphin.

If I had been able to faint, I would have in that moment. *How- how is that possible?*

Derek tilted his head to the side, considering me, or at least what I was now. *I think you're in shock. You turned into a dolphin when you shifted, you shifted using some sort of magic in your blood. I don't know the details of it, you'd have to ask one of our scientists.*

Holy s- How is this even possible?

You've seen me shit hundreds of times before, how come you've never asked me this before?

That was before it was me!

He grinned. *Now you know how I felt the first time I shifted. At least someone's here with you.*

I frowned, or at least I tried to. *I'm sorry that you had to go through it along.*

He shrugged. *Wasn't that bad.*

Hey, Heidi whined. *Stop that. Let me know what's going on.*

"Sorry, Heidi," Derek said out loud, the only one of us right now that could do that. "Lil's was just having a panic attack; I think she's good now though."

Ask her how I change back, I told him.

He raised an eyebrow. "Are you sure that you don't want to try moving around in your new form a bit before you start trying on turning back."

Hey, you are so not turning back yet, Lily! Heidi practically yelled in my mind. *That's so not happening.*

I looked over at her, then I jumped, or at least did the dolphin equivalent of jumping. I forgot that she was still in her alligator form. *Why can't I shift back yet?* Derek kept translating for me.

Because I am higher ranked than you and I say so.

That isn't a reason.

Sure it is, it just isn't a good one. Come on, swim over to me.

I felt my eyes go wide. *Uh, how do I do that?*

She grinned, her huge teeth flashing. *Don't think about it, let your inner animal take over.*

Okay, how the heck was I supposed to do that? I closed my eyes and cleared my mind, waiting for some kind of… instinct to make its self known. Nothing happened. *Aren't I supposed to hear some animal in my mind or something?* I asked Derek.

Like we've said before, some shifters do, usually the land shifters, but some don't. You and I don't but Heidi does. Just think swim and try not to think of the specifics of it.

I took a deep breath and tried again, trying to swim to Derek. Without knowing quite how I did it, I was suddenly in front of him.

He reached out slowly, as if to not scare me away and put his hand on the top of my head, running it down my back. "That's a different feeling," he muttered, mostly to himself. "Your skin feels like its greased

plastic or I don't know, like a dolphin feels like I would guess."

I remembered seeing dolphins in the ocean one year when I went down to Florida with Derek and his family, so I kind of knew what he meant by that. *What do I look like?*

"Besides like a dolphin?" I nodded. "Hmmm." He studied me for a minute. "You're a sky blue color and your eyes are still there same violet eyes. Anything else?"

Not really. Ask Heidi if I can change back yet. Wait, how can you hear what she's saying, I thought that only shifters who were in their animal form and the same type could talk mentally.

"I'm your endeared so I can hear anything that you can hear." He looked towards Heidi. "She's wants to shift back again."

Not yet, I want to work some more with you.

I groaned. I really don't think that that will be much fun.

Please, Derek, get her to stop, I beg you.

Derek grinned. *Ready to throw in the towel?*

Yes, I said without hesitation.

What happened to you being able to handle anything and everything?

That's when I was in my own body! We've been doing this for over two hours, I give!

He chuckled. "Heidi, Lily's whining. She says that she wants to stop and that she'll give you anything."

I never said that!

He grinned even wider but ignored me. *Too bad.*

Anything, huh, Heidi said, relish in her tone. *I'll let her stop if she promises to go on a all-day shopping trip with me.*

"She'll do it."

No I will not! Tell her that I won't!"

Too bad, have fun Lil. You need a day for girly things.

I hate girly things.

Well that's just too bad. "How does she change back, Heidi?"

The same way that she shifted into an animal but just think human instead.

I took a deep breath, relaxed my mind, and focused on becoming a human again. I felt energy wash through me and when it stopped I looked down. I was still a dolphin. I tried again. It didn't work. *Uh, Derek, huge problem here.*

"What is it?"

I don't think I can shift back.

He closed his eyes. "Shit."

Yeah, my thoughts exactly.

About the Author

aquaturtle66